



THE KENNEL CLUB

Making a difference for dogs

FAQs on Special Award Classes

Introduction

In response to the growing number of Breed Clubs wishing to hold Special Award Classes at their show, the following FAQs have been provided.

Q. What shows can hold SACs?

A. These classes can be held at breed club Limited, Open or Championship shows, with the exception that Special Award Champion Classes cannot be held at Limited shows. It is advisable to inform the main judge that these classes are taking place.

Q. What is a Special Award Class?

A. In the broadest sense Special Award Classes (SAC) are a form of “mock class” which can be scheduled at a show for the purpose of allowing a B or C list judge the opportunity to gain more hands on experience. SAC are separate from the main judging and usually take place during the lunch break of a show.

Q. Do we need to request permission to schedule the SAC?

A. Yes please write to the Kennel Club on Club headed paper specifying the show date.

Q. How many Special Award Classes can be offered at a show?

A. No more than three classes per sex may be scheduled at any show. However, three classes per sex may **only** be scheduled at those Shows where the dogs and bitches are judged in separate rings and they must be judged by two separate judges. It is important that the classes be judged during the lunch break and that they do not detract from the smooth running of the main show.

Q. Can we schedule AV Special Award Classes?

A. No, Special Award Classes may **only** be scheduled for single breeds / single varieties of a breed. It is **not** acceptable for Societies to schedule an Any Variety Special Award Class.

Q. Should the SAC be included in the schedule and entry form?

A. Yes, SAC should be included in the schedule and on the entry form. Clubs may also find it helpful to outline that classes are being scheduled in order to boost the judges’ hands on experience and hopefully attract a high entry.

Q. Do we need to define the special award classes in the schedule?

A. Yes, all classes should be clearly defined.

Q. Is there a format for how these awards should appear in the schedule?

A. There is no set format but the classes must not be numbered so as not to be confused with the main show and it should be made clear that being beaten in these classes does not affect a dog’s eligibility to challenge for best dog/bitch.

Q. Can an entry fee be charged?

A. This is at the discretion of the show society however it is important to remember that the objective of the classes is to provide experience for novice judges and it is not solely to generate additional revenue.

Q. When should the awards be scheduled?

A. Within reason they may be scheduled at any time. However, the preferred time is during the lunch break, as it creates a spectacle for the exhibitors, often attracts a larger entry/audience and does not detract from the main judging.

Q. Should Rosettes and Prize cards be offered?

A. Yes, in accordance with Regulation F(1).7 there should be at least 4 awards including Reserve on offer in every class. Printed award cards must be given and these may indicate the name of the Society, the type and date of the Show, the nature of the award and the name of any commercial firms donating the awards.

Q. Can prize money be offered?

A. This is at the discretion of the show society.

Q. Must dogs be entered for competition in the show to take part?

A. Yes, only those dogs which have been entered into the main show are eligible for entry into the SAC (with the exception of dogs competing in the Special Award Champions Class).

Q. Can a dog enter SACs if it has only entered a Handling Class?

A. Dogs must be entered in the main show to take part in SACs. Therefore, even if the exhibitor has only entered a Handling class, they would be eligible to enter SACs. However, the entry must be made in the normal way prior to the closing date of entries.

Q. Can the judge appointed for the special award class(es) exhibit at the show?

A. No, in line with Regulation F(1)21.e judges may not exhibit for competition or handle a dog in the ring at a show at which they are officiating.

Q. If the person appointed to judge has handled a dog at a show, boarded or prepared for exhibition within the previous twelve months can the dog be entered in the SAC?

A. No - Regulation F(1)30.a.(11) refers.

Q. Does the beaten dog rule count?

A. No. These are separate classes to the main competition and therefore a dog beaten in competition for SAC is not considered a beaten dog.

Q. Can the judge of the SAC select a 'Best Dog/Bitch' from the classes?

A. No, this is a ring fenced class designed to give aspiring judges the opportunity to gain more hands on experience; they are not a competition in themselves.

Q. Can Breed Clubs schedule a Special Award Champions Class at their show?

A. Yes, at Breed Club Championship & Open shows the Special Award Champions class may be scheduled with the proviso that a B or C list judge be appointed and the class is scheduled outside the main competition.

N.B. Champions classes are not to be held at Limited shows.