



The Judges Education Programme (Breed Shows)

Updated August 2023



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The Judges Education Programme (Breed Shows) has been developed for the education, approval and listing of every breed show judge, from those who aspire to judge but have not yet stepped into the ring, right through to open show judges, those who go on to award Challenge Certificates, and those who judge championship show Groups and Best in Show.

The system has been designed taking into account the feedback received from exhibitors, show societies and judges, and has been enhanced in its development from comments received.

The Judges Education Programme introduces a structured and logical approach to the training of judges, incorporating a step-by-step approach.

Kennel Club Regulations supporting the Judges Education Programme came into force on 1 January 2021, including making clear the responsibility breed clubs have in the development of the education of judges.

Seminars undertaken prior to this date can be accepted for use when progressing via the Judges Education Programme. However, judges are required to complete the criteria at each level before moving on to the next, thus providing a clear structured approach.

Stewarding is a requirement for both levels 1 and 3 and therefore a more fluid approach on when this is undertaken can be taken here, providing the minimum requirements are met.

Full information on the Judges Education Programme, including detailed Codes of Best Practice for each element of the scheme, can be found at [thekennelclub.org.uk/jep](https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/jep) and questions can be directed to judges.education@thekennelclub.org.uk

Key features of the Judges Education Programme

- All judges must have met the requirements of Judges Education Programme level 1 to judge at shows held from 1 January 2021 (existing Challenge Certificate judges exempt)
- Judges must complete the requirements at each level before moving to the next level
- Judges will upload their evidence of learning to an online platform once this is available
- Judges, exhibitors and show organisers will be able to view a judge's experience via the enhanced Find a Judge website, which will list all judges who register, in due course
- Each breed has appointed a breed education co-ordinator as a main point of contact to oversee a breed's education of judges, with the support of The Kennel Club
- Each breed club is required to have active involvement in educating judges via breed appreciation days and breed supported entry shows





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Guide to achieving Judges Education Programme levels

Requirements to meet this level

Eligibility to judge

Level 1

- Minimum of five years proven interest in pedigree dogs
 - Take and pass Requirements of a Dog show Judge examination. Judges attending an online Requirements of a Dog Show judge seminar may take the exam via The Kennel Club Academy (exam effective 1 January 2024)
 - Attend a Conformation and Movement seminar
 - Pass Points of a Dog assessment (effective 1 January 2024)
 - Complete a minimum of two full-day stewarding appointments
- Up to three classes (four if one is a puppy class) for any breed at limited or open shows.

Level 2

First breed:

- Attend a breed appreciation day (BAD) and pass a multiple-choice examination (MCE) for the respective breed
 - View online ring stewarding seminar and take online quiz
 - Complete online critique writing seminar and take online quiz
- Unlimited number of classes for the respective breed at limited, open or championship shows (no Challenge Certificates)
 - Any variety classes, groups and best in show at limited shows

Subsequent breeds

- Attend a breed appreciation day (BAD) and pass a multiple-choice examination (MCE) for each breed. Note: not mandatory for Group Judge for breeds in the group that they are not approved at level 4, but attendance strongly recommended

Level 3

- Undergo minimum of three mentoring sessions with a minimum of 12 months between first and third session
 - Be observed judging a breed club show, breed supported entry show or championship show without Challenge Certificates once all mentoring sessions have been undertaken
 - Complete remaining 10 full-day stewarding appointments (one-time qualification)
 - Have owned/bred a minimum of three dogs when they obtained their first entry in The Kennel Club Stud Book – save for exceptional circumstances (one-time qualification for first breed in which a judge awards Challenge Certificates)
 - Attended the appropriate sub-group field trial/ open gundog working test for first gundog breed or ring procedure at licensed shows (German Shepherd Dog Education Programme) online exam (one-time qualification)
 - Have achieved the relevant hands-on experience in line with the stated requirements for the relevant judging tier (see pages 8 – 10)
 - Pass 'Eye for a Dog' assessment for judges progressing for a fourth or subsequent breed under JEP route
- Unlimited number of classes for the respective breed at limited, open or championship shows (no Challenge Certificates)
 - Any variety classes, groups and best in show at limited shows

Level 4

- Attend and pass a Breed Specific Assessment for the specific breed run by The Kennel Club
- Award Challenge Certificates in the respective breed
 - Any variety classes, groups and best in show at open and limited shows

Further information on Group and Best in Show judges progressing via the Judges Education Programme route will be available at a later date.

Hands-on judging experience

	Breeds in this tier	Traditional route	Judges Educational Programme route
Tier 1	<p>Hound group: Basset Fauve De Bretagne, Basset Griffon Vendeen (Grand), Bloodhound, Finnish Spitz, Greyhound, Ibizan Hound, Norwegian Elkhound, Otterhound, Pharaoh Hound</p> <p>Gundog group: Brittany, German Wirehaired Pointer, Retriever (Chesapeake Bay), Retriever (Curly Coated), Spaniel (Clumber), Spaniel (Irish Water)</p> <p>Terrier group: Australian Terrier, Cesky Terrier, Glen Of Imaal Terrier, Irish Terrier, Kerry Blue Terrier, Lakeland Terrier, Manchester Terrier, Norwich Terrier, Sealyham Terrier, Skye Terrier, Welsh Terrier</p> <p>Utility group: Shar Pei</p> <p>Pastoral group: Australian Cattle Dog, Collie (Smooth), Hungarian Puli, Norwegian Buhund, Polish Lowland Sheepdog, Swedish Vallhund</p> <p>Working group: Bouvier Des Flandres, Mastiff</p> <p>Toy group: Lowchen (Little Lion Dog), Maltese</p>	30	15
Tier 2	<p>Hound group: Basenji, Basset Griffon Vendeen (Petit)</p> <p>Gundog group: Bracco Italiano, Irish Red & White Setter, Large Munsterlander, Spaniel (American Cocker), Spaniel (Field), Spaniel (Sussex), Spanish Water Dog</p> <p>Terrier group: Airedale Terrier, Bedlington Terrier, Dandie Dinmont Terrier, Nor-folk Terrier, Parson Russell Terrier, Scottish Terrier</p> <p>Utility group: Akita, Keeshond, Schipperke, Schnauzer</p> <p>Pastoral group: Briard, Finnish Lapphund, Lancashire Heeler, Pyrenean Mountain Dog</p> <p>Working group: Giant Schnauzer, Portuguese Water Dog, St. Bernard, Tibetan Mastiff</p> <p>Toy group: English Toy Terrier (Black & Tan), Griffon Bruxellois, Italian Greyhound, Pekingese</p>	40	20
Tier 3	<p>Hound group: Basset Hound, Borzoi, Deerhound, Irish Wolfhound, Saluki</p> <p>Gundog group: German Shorthaired Pointer, Hungarian Vizsla, Hungarian Wire Haired Vizsla, Italian Spinone, Retriever (Nova Scotia Duck Tolling)</p>	70	35

	Breeds in this tier	Traditional route	Judges Educational Programme route
	<p>Terrier group: Cairn Terrier, Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier, West Highland White Terrier</p> <p>Utility group: Boston Terrier, Chow Chow, Japanese Shiba Inu, Japanese Spitz, Miniature Schnauzer</p> <p>Pastoral group: Australian Shepherd, German Shepherd Dog, Old English Sheep-dog, Samoyed, Welsh Corgi (Cardigan), Welsh Corgi (Pembroke)</p> <p>Working group: Alaskan Malamute, Bernese Mountain Dog, Bullmastiff, Dogue de Bordeaux, Leonberger, Newfoundland, Siberian Husky</p> <p>Toy group: Affenpinscher, Bichon Frise, Chinese Crested, Havanese, King Charles Spaniel, Miniature Pinscher, Yorkshire Terrier</p>		
Tier 4	<p>Hound group: Afghan Hound, Beagle, Rhodesian Ridgeback</p> <p>Gundog group: English Setter, Gordon Setter, Pointer, Spaniel (English Springer), Spaniel (Welsh Springer), Weimaraner</p> <p>Utility group: Bulldog, Dalmatian, French Bulldog, Lhasa Apso, Shih Tzu, Tibetan Spaniel, Tibetan Terrier</p> <p>PASTORAL GROUP: Bearded Collie, Border Collie, Collie (Rough), Shetland Sheepdog</p> <p>Working group: Dobermann, Great Dane, Rottweiler</p> <p>Toy group: Japanese Chin, Papillon, Pomeranian</p>	120	60
Tier 5	<p>Gundog group: Irish Setter, Retriever (Flat Coated), Spaniel (Cocker)</p> <p>Terrier group: Border Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier</p> <p>Working group: Boxer</p> <p>Toy group: Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Pug</p>	180	90
Tier 6	<p>Hound group: Whippet</p> <p>Gundog group: Retriever (Golden), Retriever (Labrador)</p>	250	125

Hands-on judging experience continued

For those breeds with varieties:

- Dachshund: 125 Dachshunds of any combination of the six varieties
- Poodle: 75 Poodles of any combination of Poodle (Miniature), Poodle (Standard) and Poodle (Toy), which must include a minimum of 15 of each variety
- German Spitz: 35 German Spitz of any combination of German Spitz (Klein) and German Spitz (Mittel)
- Fox Terrier: 35 Fox Terriers of any combination of Fox Terrier (Smooth) and Fox Terrier (Wire)
- Bull Terrier: 40 Bull Terriers of any combination of Bull Terrier and Bull Terrier (Miniature)
- Belgian Shepherd Dog: 35 Belgian Shepherd Dogs, any combination of Groenendael, Tervueren, Malinois and Laekenois
- Chihuahua: 100 Chihuahuas, any combination of Long Coat or Smooth Coat

All non-CC breeds are classified as Tier 2 for the purpose of hands-on judging experience, unless otherwise stated at www.thekennelclub.org.uk/jep



Transitional table

Current status

Transition to Judges Educational Programme level

Not on any breed club list

- Work towards completing Judges Education Programme level 1 requirements to be able to judge from 1 January 2021
- Once Judges Education Programme level 1 requirements are met and online platform is available register at Judges Education Programme level 1 and progress to Level 2 as required

On a breed club C list

- Work towards completing Judges Education Programme level 1 requirements to be able to judge from 1 January 2021
- Once Judges Education Programme level 1 requirements are met and online platform is available, register at Judges Education Programme level 1 and progress to level 2 as required

On a B list and have previously passed an assessment for the breed (MCE or hands-on)

- Once online platform is available, register at Judges Education Programme level 2 for the breed or work towards meeting all criteria
- Work towards meeting Judges Education Programme level 3 requirements

On an A3 list/Judges Development Programme Credit

- Submit an A3 grandfathering application if listed on a breed club/council A3 judging list or if a JDP credit has been achieved and all mandatory criteria has been met, including minimum hands on experience
- If approved, judge will be listed at Judges Education Programme level 4 as an approved Challenge Certificate judge of the breed
- If rejected, register at Judges Education Programme level 3 when eligible and take The Kennel Club breed specific assessment

A2 approved judge

- Once online platform is available judge will be automatically listed at Judges Education Programme level 4 as an approved Challenge Certificate judge of the breed

Existing Challenge Certificate judge

- Once online platform is available judge will be automatically listed at Judges Education Programme level 4 as an approved Challenge Certificate judge of the breed



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