



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

Press Release

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB ANNOUNCES NEW GRAND CHAMPION TITLE

AKC® Champions Can Compete for Grand Champion Title at AKC Conformation Events

New York, NY - The American Kennel Club® is pleased to announce that it will begin offering the Grand Champion title at AKC Conformation events. This new title will be available to AKC Champions of Record, giving the opportunity for Champion dog owners to return to the show ring with their dogs and further showcase the quality of their breeding stock. Competition for this new title will begin at AKC all-breed, group and specialty shows on May 12, 2010, concurrent with the implementation of the 2010-2011 AKC Point Schedule.

“AKC Conformation is meant to be an evaluation and showcase for breeding stock. Many Champions are retired after earning their titles and this creates a dilemma for breeders. We are excited to offer the Grand Champion title as a way to encourage these quality dogs to return to the ring,” said Robin Stansell, AKC Vice President of Event Operations. “AKC Companion and Performance events offer multiple titles to celebrate achievement in competition at various levels in the sport. It is only natural to offer a Grand Champion title to Conformation exhibitors so that they too can compete and excel with their dogs at a whole new level.”

Competition for this new title will be judged during the Best of Breed/Variety competition at all-breed, group and specialty shows. All Champions of Record entered in the Best of Breed/Variety competition will be eligible to compete for Grand Championship points. There is no additional entry fee. Grand Championship points are awarded, at the judge's discretion, to the following placements: Best of Breed/Variety, Best of Opposite Sex, Select Dog and Select Bitch. Select Dog and Select Bitch are Champions that were recognized as the

top quality of their sex after BOB and BOS have been awarded.

Grand Championship points are calculated using the same AKC Point Schedule as is used for Championship points. (Dogs entered in non-regular classes are not counted in the computation of Championship or Grand Championship points.) Champions of Record including champions that are non-regular class winners (i.e. Veterans Class Winners) or dogs that have been “moved up” to Best of Breed competition for the show are the only dogs eligible for Grand Championship points. Although Winners Dog or Winners Bitch can win Best of Breed or Best of Opposite Sex, in no case will they be eligible for Grand Champion competition.

Grand Championship points may be awarded to eligible dogs as follows:

- Best of Breed – All dogs of both sexes in the breed or variety exhibited in the regular classes and Best of Breed competition will be counted
- Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed - All dogs of the same sex in the breed or variety exhibited in the regular classes and Best of Breed competition will be counted
- Select Dog or Select Bitch – The total number of dogs of the same sex in the breed/variety defeated in the regular classes and BOB competition will be counted. (i.e. 2 dogs less than the total number of the same sex)

Completion of the title requires all of the following:

- Twenty five Grand Championship points
- Three “majors” (three or more points earned at a single show) won under three different judges
- At least one or more of these points

won under a fourth judge

- Must have defeated at least one other AKC Champion of Record at three shows

Starting in 2010, dogs who earn their Grand Champion title will receive an invitation to the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship.

For more information about the AKC Grand Champion title please see the AKC Rules Applying to Dog Shows and to submit questions and comments about the new AKC Grand Champion title contact: eventplans@akc.org.

The American Kennel Club, founded in 1884, is a not-for-profit organization which maintains the largest registry of purebred dogs in the world and oversees the sport of purebred dogs in the United States. The AKC is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. Along with its nearly 5,000 licensed and member clubs and its affiliated organizations, the AKC advocates for the purebred dog as a family companion, advances canine health and well-being, works to protect the rights of all dog owners and promotes responsible dog ownership. More than 20,000 competitions for AKC-registered purebred dogs are held under AKC rules and regulations each year including conformation, agility, obedience, rally, tracking, herding, lure coursing, coonhound events, hunt tests, field and earthdog tests. Affiliate AKC organizations include the AKC Humane Fund, AKC Canine Health Foundation, AKC Companion Animal Recovery and the AKC Museum of the Dog. For more information, visit www.akc.org.

Healthwise

Exercise Induced Collapse (EIC)

By Tina Hamrick

As we all know in September 2009 EIC was identified in the Boykin Spaniel. I first learned of EIC in early April 2010 and read all I could find on what is was all about. I sent an e-mail to the University of Minnesota; I had a few questions that I wanted answers too.

I was told as of April 20, 2010 there have been 31 Boykin's tested and of those, 5 tested 'affected' (4 with signs of collapse), 9 tested as 'carriers', and 17 tested as 'clear'. At this point it is just too early to tell just how prevalent EIC is in the Boykin Spaniel breed. I recently sent another E-mail to the University for the latest statistics. As of September 8, 2010 the current statistics included 125 Boykin Spaniel's tested of those 70 (56%) are clear, 45 (36%) are carriers and 10 (8%) are affected.

Here is what the University of Minnesota recommends concerning breeding:

"This mutation causes an amino acid in the coding sequence of the dynamin 1 gene, which is involved in nerve signaling during high level neurological stimulation.

We have recommended to all breeds where this mutation is present that they should not automatically remove all carriers/affecteds from their breeding programs. The best approach to maintain genetic diversity while decreasing the frequency of the mutation in the population is to choose matings in

which at least one of the parents is EIC clear. A mating of a carrier to a clear will produce litters that are on average 50% clear and 50% carriers, with no affecteds. Then you will be able to choose otherwise equal pups that are clear for breeding homes, and carriers to pet homes. Of course if there are other reasons why you would consider the carrier pup to be superior, that dog could be kept in a breeding home and only mated to cleared dogs. Using this approach the carrier rate should drop, and you can eliminate the production of affected dogs without the need to remove any dog from your breeding program."

The total population of Boykin Spaniels has not been tested at this time so we can not say it is running ramped in our little brown dogs. Testing all Boykin's both young and old will give a better picture of just how bad EIC is found in Boykin Spaniel.

If you have any questions or any information on EIC please feel free to contact:

University of Minnesota
Email: vd1@umun.edu
Phone: (612)625-8787
Toll free: (800)605-8787

For all information on EIC here is the University of Minnesota web site.

<http://www.vd1.umn.edu/our-services/canineneuromuscular/home.html>

Surgery, Allowable Procedures, Health Reasons

For a dog that is competing in AKC Conformation or Obedience, what health-related surgical procedures are allowed?

Any procedure undertaken strictly to restore the health of a dog would not in itself affect a dog's show eligibility. Such procedures would include but not be limited to:

1. The repair of broken legs, even if such procedures involve the insertion of pins, plates or wires
2. The removal of damaged cartilage
3. The repair of ligaments that have ruptured or been torn
4. Caesarian sections
5. The repair of umbilical hernias
6. The removal of tumors or cysts
7. Gastric torsion/bloat surgery
8. Splenic torsion
9. Tonsillectomy
10. Correction of "Cherry Eye" (when the procedure only involves the gland of the nictitating membrane, and not the membrane itself)