



GREAT AMERICAN  
DOG SHOW

# THE INTERNATIONAL KENNEL CLUB OF CHICAGO: BUILT ON TRADITION

**T**he International Kennel Club of Chicago: To anyone who's been around awhile, it's one of the Big Ones, the ones you plan for, travel for, and wait for all year. It's one filled with excitement, tradition, innovation, prestige and numbers.

The first dog show in America was held in Chicago in 1883—before there was even an American Kennel Club! It drew an entry of 21 dogs, all Pointers and Setters!

The Chicago Kennel Club was founded in 1900. The Union Stock Yard & Transit Company of Chicago purchased its charter in 1938. The name was changed to the International Kennel Club of Chicago—the only cub AKC allowed to use the word “International” in.



The new club's show format was modeled after the prestigious International Live Stock Exposition, which was then the nation's number 1 livestock shown and known for its focus on educational events, especially for young people. The IKC strove to emulate this with an emphasis on Junior Handling and Junior Dog Judging. The IKC's first show, in 1938, drew an astounding entry of 1169 dogs.

While the conformation judging was the main event, the IKC devoted a huge part of its space to other aspects, including benching for 3000 dogs. It also featured a 50,000 square foot area in which to showcase indoor

field trials, sighthound straight racing over a 200 yard track, weight pulling for Siberian Huskies and Alaskan Malamutes, and scent hurdle racing (a precursor to flyball). Various canine celebrities such as Lassie and Ashley Whippet also made appearances. In addition, the IKC was one of the first shows to have vendors—and it had as many as 120 at a single show! Of course, judges clamored to be on the panel, and IKC was able to feature some of the finest, including Mrs. Hartley Dodge of Morris & Essex fame, Alva Rosenberg, Percy Roberts, William Brainard, Harry Peters, Mrs. Robert Lindsay and Miss Laura Delano—some famous for their canine knowledge, and some as well for their society pedigree.

The show was originally held in Chicago's International Amphitheatre in the Union Stockyards (at one time the largest exposition Center in the United States with 585,000 square feet), where it stayed until 1982.

In 1982 the club passed to the ownership of Louis Auslander, who initially co-owned it with Mrs. Gaylord Donnelly and later with his wife Seme Auslander. The show moved to Chicago's McCormick Place Convention Center in 1983, where it remained until 2015.

At its peak, the IKC was the largest show in America, with entries of more than 3000 dogs and spectator attendance topping 60,000!

IKC is under new leadership and has plans to resurrect those great crowds, and maintain IKC's long held position as the Midwest's flagship dog show.







## WELCOME TO THE GREAT AMERICAN DOG SHOW!

We're excited that you're part of this historic event! Did you know the first dog show in America took place right here in Chicago? It was in 1874, and had a total entry of 21 dogs, all Pointers and Setters! Since then, Chicago dog shows have continued to lead the way in both entries and innovations, at one time holding the record in both number of dogs and spectators attending!

This year we're pleased to add our very own Greet the Breeds, where you can greet and learn about some of AKC's 201 recognized breeds as well as rare breeds and breeds on the road to AKC recognition—it's like a living dog museum! You can also be part of our many exciting demonstrations and contests, like agility, tricks and obedience. There's even a grooming competition and, for the first time in history, the Great American Puppy Show, an all-puppy event with more than 200 entries for 2024!

Be sure to budget time to attend our talks, where you can get one-on-one advice from experts about a variety of dog topics. And plan for an armful of goods from our Bark Mall, where you'll find unique products and gifts for the dog or the dog lover in your life that you won't find anywhere else! And don't forget our kids zone!

We hope you enjoy the event!



**D. Scott Pfeil**  
PRINCIPAL & PRESIDENT



**Erika Wyatt**  
PRINCIPAL & EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT





**With Dogs,  
You Actually Can  
Pick Your Family!**

**Pick Wisely!**

**Big, tall, little, small, hairy, bald, fast, slow---choosing your breed is like going to a Chinese restaurant with more than 200 choices. But this choice is going to be with you for the next 10 to 15 years. How do you choose the best breed for you?**

First of all, think beyond the handful of most popular breeds. While one may in fact be the breed for you, why limit your choices? Popular breeds are easy to find, but beware the large number of uninformed people breeding them just to make money. Midlist breeds are still fairly easy to find, and have a much higher percentage of good breeders. And rare breeds, while hard to find, have the highest percentage of good breeders.

When you own a rare breed, you become part of an extended family. You also help save a breed from extinction. So instead of a Beagle (8th in popularity), consider the slightly larger Harrier (193rd

in popularity). Love that long and low look? Instead of a Dachshund (#9) how about a Dandie Dinmont Terrier (#186)? Want that graceful Greyhound silhouette? Check out the Azawakh (#194) or Sloughi (#197). Or go even rarer, to the breeds registered in the AKC Miscellaneous group or the AKC Foundation Stock Service. Be sure to visit our Open show to meet the rarest breeds here!

But of course, never get a breed just because it's popular or rare. Get it because it fits your personality, activity, and lifestyle. And while looks shouldn't be the main consideration, let's be honest: we're attracted to certain looks. Who said you shouldn't be able to gaze upon your dog and be awed by its appearance? So as you visit the rings, make note of the breeds that appeal to you





## Be Sure to Consider:

**Upkeep:** How much grooming do those gorgeous long tresses require? Do they mat? Shed? Require professional clipping? Some people find grooming relaxing. Others simply don't have the time.

**Exercise:** Most people overestimate how much time they will spend exercising their dog. And an under-exercised dog is a destructive dog. Small dogs can exercise in a smaller space, but still need to run around.

**Climate:** Living with an Arctic or flat-faced breed in Florida is going to make outside exercise challenging. A small, close-haired breed is going to freeze in the snow.

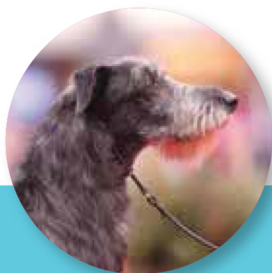
**Costs:** Bigger dogs have bigger food, vet, bedding and boarding bills. You may even need a bigger car!

**Health and longevity:** In general giant breeds don't live as long. Learn what health considerations each breed has, and whether tests are available to avoid them.

**Activities:** Make sure your breed likes to do what you want to do, whether hiking, swimming, fetching, agility, or just hanging out with the kids.

**Function:** The history of a breed explains its reason for being. It's really not "how you raise them" (although that's certainly a huge factor); a good part of behavior is hardwired in their genes. Retrievers retrieve, scenthounds follow their nose, and terriers dig.

## What Group is Right for you?



**Sporting** dogs are divided into retrievers, spaniels, setters and pointers. Retrievers follow the hunter's directions to find downed birds, so are great at following commands. They also love to fetch! Setters and pointers range far afield in search of birds. They're high energy. Spaniels tend to be somewhat in-between. **Hounds** are divided into scenthounds and sighthounds, both of

which hunt without human direction: scenthounds by following a trail, and sighthounds by running down swift game. They have to be independent. **Working** dogs are divided into guardians, draft dogs, rescue dogs and general workers. Most combine an ability to follow orders with independent thinking.

**Terriers** are divided into bully breeds and hunting breeds. The bully breeds were bred to tackle tough game and even fight each other. The hunting terriers are independent and often scrappy. **Non-sporting** dogs are a catch-all group, with each breed originated for a different job.

**Toys** are often miniaturized versions of larger breeds, and reflect those breeds' personalities. Some are bred to be lap dogs. They tend to vary in obedience, but are usually gentle. **Herding** dogs must follow shepherds' commands from a distance. They are extremely alert and obedient—but can be difficult to live with unless they have a job.

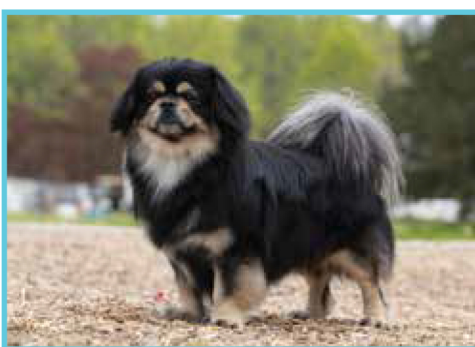
# Take a Walk on the Rare Side...

Everybody knows America's current sweetheart, the French Bulldog, ranked #1 in AKC popularity. And they know everybody's previous favorite, the Labrador Retriever, which held the #1 spot for 41 years. But are you aware of the Azawakh? Have you ever petted a Pumi? Plotted with a Plott Hound? If you're looking for a new best friend, consider these rarer gems of the dog world:



**BEUCERON**  
(AKC Rank #111)

They look like a tall German Shepherd or Malinois. They're every bit as smart and protective.



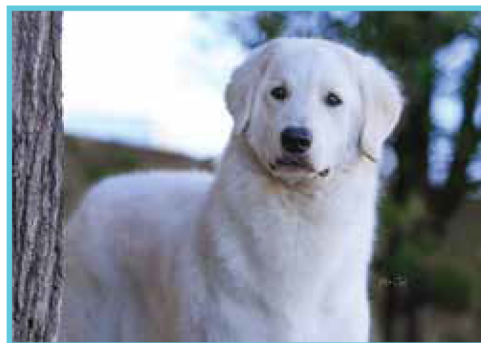
**TIBETAN SPANIEL**  
(AKC Rank #127)

Do you love Pekingese but wish you could do more with them? The Tibby is the Peki's athletic cousin.



**DANDIE DINMONT  
TERRIER**  
(AKC Rank #186)

Dandies are compact companions with big personalities. They come in two colors-- pepper or mustard!



**KUVASZ**  
(AKC Rank #177)

What do you get when you ask for a livestock guardian that is sweet, protective and looks like a model? The stunning white Kuvasz!



**PYRENEAN SHEPHERD**  
(AKC Rank #190)

Think Albert Einstein as a cute kid! One of the smartest breeds of dogs, Pyr Sheps have tousled hair and a perpetually puppy look.



**BIEWER TERRIER**  
(AKC Rank #77)

An elegant and lovable toy breed with the same sweetness and spunk as a Yorkshire Terrier -- but with flashy splashes of white!



# Look Great!

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Make the Most of

# GREET THE BREEDS



**T**he Great American Dog Show is proud to sponsor our Greet the Breeds, an unprecedented opportunity for you to meet representatives from more than 100 breeds of dogs!

We strongly suggest you visit the breeds with a plan in mind. The breeds will be scheduled in two hour increments in the designated breed booths on the show floor in the Main Hall. However, even if you miss your favorite breed in the Greet the Breeds booth, you can check the judging program so to catch them in the show ring.

Be sure to grab any handouts, pet the dogs, and ask the presenters the breed's pros and cons. Don't forget to check the judging program so you can see them in the show ring!

Don't expect to buy a puppy at a dog show! It's against AKC rules to sell or even advertise dogs or puppies at shows, in order to guard against impulse buying. But you can talk to breeders about planned litters. And visit the parent club websites for more information!



Make a list of the breeds you really want to see, and head there first. You may want to put a time limit for each breed's initial visit. Add checks to remind you to come back to see other breeds that spark your interest.

**GREET THE BREEDS** is an amazing opportunity to meet dogs firsthand and talk to breeders. Once you're home, continue your research by visiting the parent clubs for your breed finalists.

Just Google the breed's name and "Club of America" to find them. Most parent clubs have a list of breeders, and many have rescue groups. They say you can pick your friends, but not your family. With dogs, you can pick both!





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Visit our AKC Pet Insurance booth near the main entrance to learn more about pet insurance and give our prize wheel a spin.

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# What's Going On?

**A dog show may seem like chaos, but really, it's all carefully orchestrated, and easy to follow once you know the system.**

First, dogs of each breed compete against each other in the “classes:” Puppy 6-9 months, Puppy 9-12 months, Puppy Bred by Exhibitor, 12-18 months, Novice, Adult Bred by Exhibitor, American Bred, and Open, in that order. All the males (“Dogs”) compete in all of their classes before the females (“Bitches”) do the same.

In each class, the judge places them first through fourth. Once all the classes for that sex in that breed have been judged, the first place winners come back to compete for “Winners Dog” or Winners Bitch.” They line up in the reverse class order, so Open is first in line and Puppy 6-9 is last. The judge picks one dog as “Winners.” Then, unless that dog was the only one in his class, the dog that placed second to him comes in and takes his place in the line up. The judge then picks Reserve Winners, and everybody else leaves the ring.

After the same process is done for bitches, the “Best of Breed” competition enters the ring. This class consists of all the Champion dogs, followed by all the Champion bitches, then Winners Dog and Winners Bitch.

The judge makes the following placements: First is Best of Breed. Then comes Best of Winners (either Winners Dog or Winners Bitch). Third is Best of Opposite Sex (best of the opposite sex of the Best of Breed winner).

Fourth is Select Dog (second choice best male, but not Winners). Fifth is Select Bitch (second choice female). Some special events may also designate several Awards of Merit but these are not official AKC awards. In addition, best NOHS (“Owner-handled”) is awarded, either to one of the dogs already placing or if none of those is eligible, to another dog in the Best of Breed class.

The dog designated Best of Breed competes later in the day against the other 25 to 35 breed winners in its respective group, either Sporting, Hound, Working, Terrier, Toy, Non-Sporting, or Herding. The judge places them first through fourth. The best NOHS (owner-handled) dog competes in a separate NOHS group.

The First in each group then competes against the other six group winners in the final event. The judge first chooses Reserve Best in Show, and then...Best in Show!

## What’s the Judge Looking For?

Each dog is judged against its breed standard, which describes every feature, such as size, body proportion, foot shape, hair texture, tail length, and even how the dog should act and move.

When the dogs come in the ring, the judge is looking for



general breed type, that is, how well the dog has the traits that set his breed apart. Then each dog is individually examined. The judge uses both eyes and hands to check for bone structure, muscle tone, coat texture, rib spring, depth of chest, and even how the teeth meet in front. Some breeds have unique requirements, such as checking for tongue color, missing molars, foot pad thickness, or weight. All males are checked for two testicles!



When the dog trots straight away from and back to the judge, the judges checks that the legs either move parallel to each other or converge toward the center line, without being cow-hocked, out at the elbows, or flying inward or outward. The dog should stop in front of the judge with legs par-

allel and feet pointing forward. From the side, in most breeds the judge is looking for maximal reach in the front and drive from the rear, with minimal effort. Note that many breeds require different movement; for example, a Chow Chow should have a stilted gait, a Pekingese a rolling gait, and an Afghan Hound more lift in front.

Temperament is also evaluated. A Havanese should be happy, an Afghan Hound aloof. In some breeds a bit of shyness or suspicion is forgiven; in others, such as German Shepherd Dogs, it is not---to the extent the judge may require each dog to approach as a temperament test.

It takes judges years to fulfill the intensive training required to judge each breed. With more than 200 breeds, it's no wonder only a handful of judges are licensed to judge every breed. In fact, it takes longer to become an all-breed judge than it does to become a brain surgeon!



Fuzzywumpets is thrilled to be a sponsor of the all new International Kennel Club and the Great American Dog Show. Best wishes to all exhibitors and welcome to all the spectators.



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# Join the

# Fun!

## WANT TO COMPETE WITH YOUR DOG BUT CONFORMATION ISN'T FOR YOU? NO PROBLEM!

The AKC has a plethora of competitions open to all breeds, even mixes (“All-Americans,” as AKC calls them). You can even earn some titles at home virtually!

There’s various levels of training competitions like **Trick Dog**, **Canine Good Citizen**, **Rally Obedience** (where you follow a pre-set course of signs), **Obedience** (a bit more regimented), **Nose work** (finding hidden items by scent), **Barn Hunt** (finding hidden rats by scent), and **Agility** (which combines jumping, balancing and climbing at high speed as directed by the handler). There are athletic competitions like **Coursing Ability Test (CAT)**, **FastCAT** (a sprint against the clock), **Dock-Diving**, and **Weight Pulling**.



And there are even more competitions open only to certain breeds, such as retrieving, pointing, coursing, herding, carting, water rescue and terrier trials. To get started, visit the AKC website and

find their listing of clubs in your area. These clubs may give classes or know of somebody who does.

But why would anyone want to compete? It’s not like you win money! Competing with your dog is a way to strengthen your bond, share experiences, and create memories. You can meet people with similar interests in classes, clubs and competitions. You can become part of a close-knit circle of friends throughout the country. You can show off your dog and be proud of his accomplishments—or share a laugh at your goof-ups!



Your whole family can be involved.

And one day, when your dog is gone, you will still have his photos, ribbons, and titles, each of which will remind you of one of the most wonderful episodes and grandest shared adventures of your life. The titles and ribbons may not mean much themselves--- but the memories they bring back mean everything.





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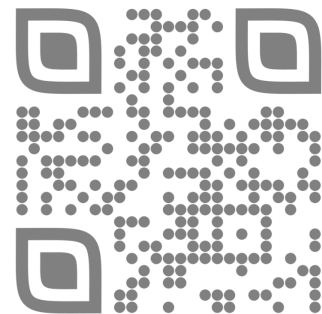
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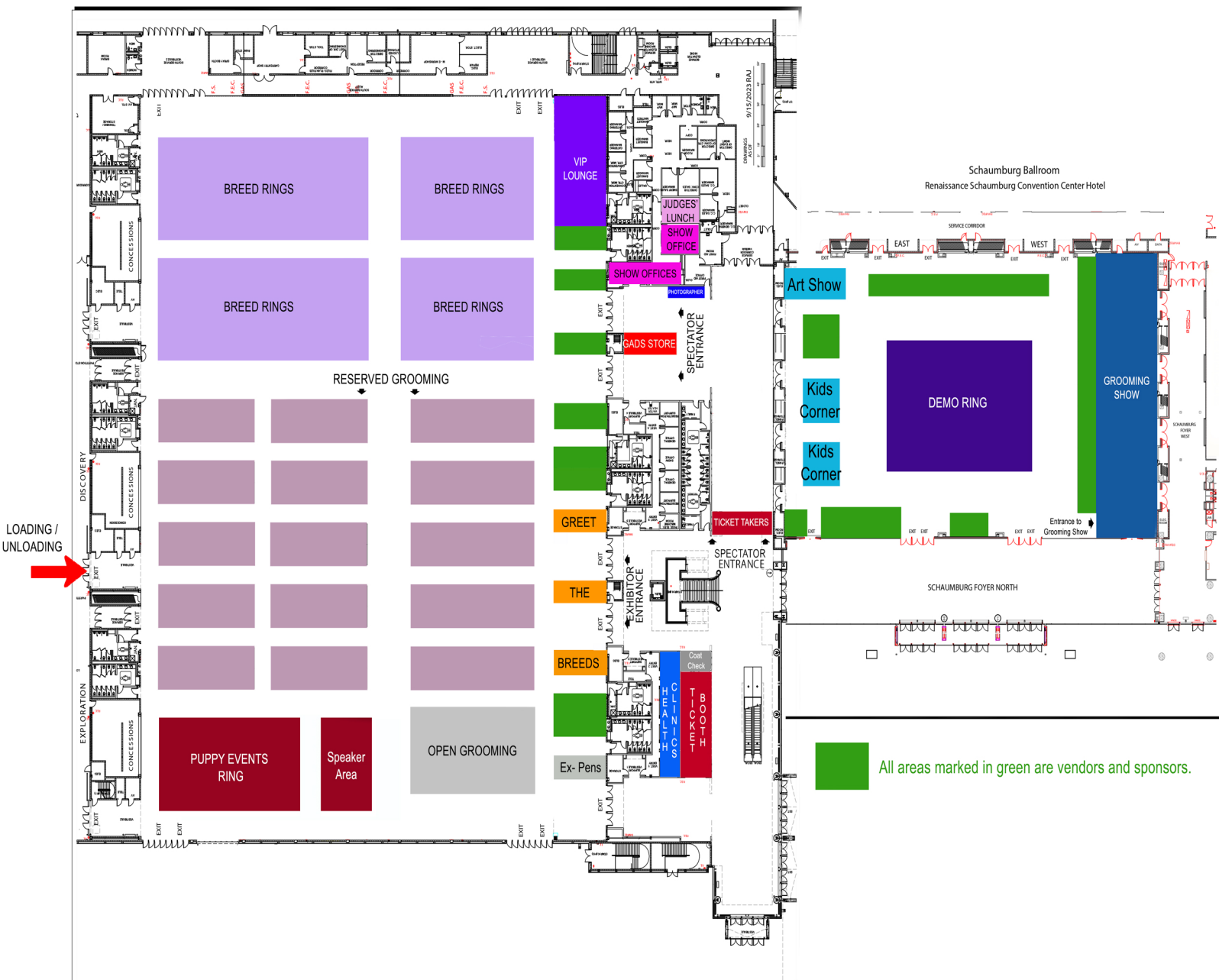


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- **SPEAKER AREA:** Stop by here for Meet the Vet, and other informative dog care talks.
- **KIDS' ZONE & ART SHOW:** Fun activities just for kids including face painting and kids' agility.
- **DEMO RING:** Non-stop action with demos in agility, scent work, obedience, tricks and more!
- **BARK MALL:** Shopping galore for the dog lover or the loved dog in your life.
- **GROOMING:** Where the contestants rest and prepare for their thrilling competitions.
- **CONFORMATION RINGS:** See the dogs compete for who will be Best in Show!
- **GREET THE BREEDS:** Meet & talk to experts in some of the 200+ AKC breeds.
- **VIP LOUNGE:** The VIP-only lounge. Not a VIP? Stop at the store and upgrade your ticket.
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