



**DOG GROOMING COMPETITIONS  
RULES 2023 (CRUFTS 2024)**



**SECTION 1:  
YKC DOG GROOMING GENERAL RULES**

Version 1.3  
28/11/2022



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## YKC DOG GROOMING GENERAL RULES

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### A:

#### DEFINITION

1. The YKC hosts various Dog Grooming competition finals at Crufts. Each individual competition has rules that they all share, and also have rules that make each of them unique.
  2. To fully understand the rules for a particular class you must read both:
    - i. Section 1: YKC Dog Grooming General Rules (this section)
    - ii. The specific section detailing the class you are interested in i.e:
      - a. Section 2: Groom Through
      - b. Section 3: Clip, Trim & Strip
  3. These rules are for the Young Kennel Club competitions.
- 

### B:

#### CLASSES

1. The YKC offers its members five different classes for members to compete in
  - i. The following three classes have qualifiers at Kennel Club licenced shows which qualify members for the Crufts Finals:
    - a. *Groom Through*
    - b. *Clip, Trim & Strip*
2. Both classes have finals at Crufts



## YKC DOG GROOMING GENERAL RULES

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### C: HANDLERS

1. Age categories for YKC members are defined as:
    - 6+** **6-11 Years**  
(Handlers 6 years and up to, but not including 12<sup>th</sup> birthday)
    - 12+** **12-17 Years**  
(Handlers 12 years and up to, but not including 18<sup>th</sup> birthday)
    - 18+** **18 –24 Years**  
(Handlers 18 years and up to, but not including 25<sup>th</sup> birthday)
  2. When entering a qualifier, enter the age category that the member will be on the first day of the show hosting the qualifier (even if the class isn't on the first day)
    - i. When entering Crufts, enter the age category that the member will be on the first day of Crufts
      - a. The YKC will place you in the correct age category for Crufts
      - ii. If you turn 25 before the first day of Crufts, you will be unable to compete in the finals at Crufts
  3. You must be a member of the Young Kennel Club before entering any Young Kennel Club classes.
- 

### D: DOGS

1. All competing dogs must be twelve calendar months of age or over on the day of competition.
2. Dogs must be registered with the Kennel Club when entering Kennel Club licenced shows.
  - i. Dogs can either be registered on the breed register or the activity register.
3. Should you qualify for a groomer of the year class, you must compete with the same breed of dog at Crufts
4. There are no restrictions on dog breed,
  - i. it is highly recommended that Groomers bring a dog that is suitable for grooming
    - a. You may enter a Chinese crested or Xoloitzcuintli [Mexican hairless], but you will not be able to score highly in many areas of the competition.
    - b. This also includes dogs with very little hair such as Greyhounds etc).
5. Food shall not be carried in the hand or given to a dog in the ring.
6. Once a dog has run with one handler in a competition, it may not compete with another handler in the same competition for the remainder of the qualifying year.
7. Bitches in season will not be allowed to compete in YKC qualifying classes nor at Crufts



## YKC DOG GROOMING GENERAL RULES

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# E:

1. YKC “Groom Through” and “Clip, Trim and Strip” competitors will have 2½ hours to complete their tasks
  - i. Competitors are not required to use the full 2½ hours,
    - a. if a competitor completes the task before the time limit has expired, they should inform the judge by raising their hand, at which point the judge will complete the final assessment of their dog.
      - (1) After the final assessment has been completed, the judge will allow the finished competitor to pack their belongings and remove their dog & equipment from the ring.
2. Dogs will be judged on the following criteria and scored out of ten for each section:
  - i. Coat
  - ii. Skin
  - iii. Ears
  - iv. Eyes
  - v. Teeth
  - vi. Feet
  - vii. Handling
  - viii. Scope of Work
    - a. The marks are **NOT** to be added together, as some categories may be deemed more important to the judge than others.
    - b. The marks are designed to give the judge a method recording their thoughts in order to base their final results on.
3. There will be an optional interval during this competition to allow competitors a 10-minute break for their dog’s comfort.
  - i. During the break you may:
    - a. take your dog to an exercise area
    - b. Provide a drink for your dog
    - c. Use a restroom
    - d. Sit and relax
  - ii. During the break you may NOT:
    - a. Ask or receive advice relating to dog grooming
    - b. (*if you have accepted the break option*) have any additional grooming work completed on the entered dog by the competitor or any other 3<sup>rd</sup> party.
  - iii. The timer will be stopped for any competitors who opted to take a break.
    - a. Any competitors not utilizing the break will be expected to continue the competition, and will have no additional time added to their allotted 2½ hours grooming time.
4. Before any dog grooming commences, the judge will inspect each competitor’s dog
  - i. Do not start any work before the judge says so.
5. While no official standard Kennel Club rules exist for “dog grooming” as an activity, YKC grooming competitions are still considered Kennel Club class
  - i. All standard Kennel Club rules that apply to all Kennel Club competitions are in effect, this includes, but not limited to:
    - a. Competitors Conduct
    - b. Dog welfare
    - c. Etc
6. There are to be no “Not For Competition” entries



## YKC DOG GROOMING GENERAL RULES

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7. A YKC Member may only enter one dog into any YKC Dog Grooming qualifier e.g:
  - i. 1x Dog in [Groom Through] class **OR** 1x Dog in the [Clip, Trim & Strip] class
  - ii. Both the [Groom Through] and [Clip, Trim & Strip] classes will take place simultaneously.
8. Members entering any YKC Grooming competition are expected to:
  - i. Bring their own grooming equipment
    - a. All required scissors
    - b. All required brushes
    - c. etc
  - ii. Bring their own grooming arm (If required)
  - iii. (Unless otherwise stated) Bring their own grooming table.
    - a. The YKC is able, in some instances, to provide grooming tables. These will often be fairly small, and only suitable for small / medium sized dogs. These grooming tables will have no other accessories (like grooming arms / mats etc).
    - b. If you require a grooming table to be provided for you, and it is not stated on the entry form whether there will be one available, check with the YKC office.
      - (1) You may groom a dog on the floor if preferred / necessary.
9. No substance which alters the natural colour, texture or body of the coat may be present in the dog's coat for any purpose at any time during the show or used before the competition.
10. The use of block chalk is allowed in the preparation of dogs
11. Block chalk and talc is allowed should it be necessary prior to competition but the chalk/talc must be brushed out before exhibition.
12. The use of powdered chalk is NOT permitted
13. No substance which alters the natural colour of any external part of the dog may be present on the dog for any purpose at any time during the Show or used before the competition.
14. Any other substance (other than water) which may be used in the preparation of a dog for exhibition must not be allowed to remain in the coat or on any other part of the dog at the time of exhibition.
15. Competitors may be disqualified at the judge's discretion if the dog is harmed or distressed (deliberately or accidentally) during the competition
16. Breaking any of the above rules will result in disqualification from the competition.



## YKC DOG GROOMING GENERAL RULES

# G:

QUALIFICATION  
CRITERIA

### STEP 1

1. The waterfall/cascade qualification method will be used to determine who qualifies for the following competitions:
  - i. Groom Through
  - ii. Clip, Trim & Strip
2. This method is a modification of a roll down system and will be described in detail below:
3. **Step 1: First Places**
  - i. Win a qualifier in your age and height category during the qualification year.
  - ii. First place will guarantee you a qualification space.
    - a. First places with faults (including time faults) also qualify.
  - iii. Eliminations do not receive placings and therefore do NOT qualify you, even if you were the only person in the subcategory.

### STEP 2

4. **Step 2: Cascade**
  - i. The second step is only used if step 1 did not fill all of the available qualification spaces, after all qualifying shows have finished.
  - ii. All those who have not yet qualified but received a 2nd place with NO TIME FAULTS\* are then considered:
    - a. If there are more 2<sup>nd</sup> place competitors than we have qualification spaces left to fill, then all of the 2<sup>nd</sup> place competitors names will be placed into a random draw.
      - (i) If you received multiple 2nd places throughout the year in a particular competition, your name will go into the draw only once\*\*
      - (ii) Members will be selected at random until all qualification spaces have been filled for that subcategory. At which point step 2 ends.
    - b. If inviting all of the 2<sup>nd</sup> place competitors would fill all of the remaining qualification spaces exactly, then all 2<sup>nd</sup> place competitors fill the qualification spaces and step 2 ends
    - c. If inviting all of the 2<sup>nd</sup> place competitors does not fill up all of the remaining qualification spaces, all of the 2<sup>nd</sup> place competitors are invited and the process will be repeated for 3rd place, followed by 4th place and so on, until all of the spaces for the subcategory have been filled.

1. On the next two pages you will find a worked example of the waterfall method in action
2. At the end of this document, you will find an appendix which details the YKC's reasons for selecting this particular qualification method, as well outlining why other methods were not selected.

\* To ensure that members can demonstrate they can complete a course competitively in a timely manner

\*\* This is to stop people feeling they need to "chase" lots of 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place



## YKC DOG GROOMING GENERAL RULES

### EXAMPLE

#### 1. WORKED EXAMPLE OF THE WATERFALL METHOD

- i. In this example, we are going to assume the following
  - a. 4 qualifying shows for the year
  - b. 10 places on offer
  - c. These results are for the "12-17 – Groom Through" subcategory

PLACE	NORTH DOG SHOW RESULTS		SOUTH DOG SHOW RESULTS		EAST DOG SHOW RESULTS		WEST DOG SHOW RESULTS	
	HANDLER	DOG	HANDLER	DOG	HANDLER	DOG	HANDLER	DOG
1	BOB	STAR	BOB	STAR	SAM	ZIGGY	SOPHIE	FIDO
2	JAMES	BUSTER	ANNA	SKY	BOB	STORM	SAM	ZIGGY
3	DAVID	TITAN	SAM	ZIGGY	ZARA	CHASE	TINA	PLUTO
4	LAURA	CHEDAR	HEATHER	CHAI	SARAH	ROLO	HARVEY	SAMSON
5	SOPHIE	LEAF	ZARA	CHASE	ANNA	SKY	HARVEY	LUDO
6	BOB	PIPPIN	SAM	TRIP	THEO	ROVER	FRED	TYBALT
ETC								

#### 2. Use Step 1

- i. Step 1 looks for every member who has received a first place at a qualifier. Each member with a first place has their Crufts qualification space guaranteed.
  - a. To represent this, we will colour successfully qualified members in yellow
  - b. We will grey out Bob's 2<sup>nd</sup> win as he does not receive 2 qualification spaces
  - c. From the example below, only 3 spaces have been filled so far, therefore we need to move to step 2 to fill the remaining positions

PLACE	NORTH DOG SHOW RESULTS		SOUTH DOG SHOW RESULTS		EAST DOG SHOW RESULTS		WEST DOG SHOW RESULTS	
	HANDLER	DOG	HANDLER	DOG	HANDLER	DOG	HANDLER	DOG
1	BOB	STAR	BOB	STAR	SAM	ZIGGY	SOPHIE	FIDO
2	JAMES	BUSTER	ANNA	SKY	BOB	STORM	SAM	ZIGGY
3	DAVID	TITAN	SAM	ZIGGY	ZARA	CHASE	TINA	PLUTO
4	LAURA	CHEDAR	HEATHER	CHAI	SARAH	ROLO	HARVEY	SAMSON
5	SOPHIE	LEAF	ZARA	CHASE	ANNA	SKY	HARVEY	LUDO
6	BOB	PIPPIN	SAM	TRIP	THEO	ROVER	FRED	TYBALT
ETC								

#### 3. Using Step 2 (x1)

- i. All those who received 2<sup>nd</sup> places with no time faults are looked at
  - a. Bob and Sam have already qualified, so we can grey them out
  - b. James and Anna have not yet qualified so will receive spaces as accepting them both would not exceed the 10 spaces limit
  - c. We have now allocated 5 out of 10 spaces

PLACE	NORTH DOG SHOW RESULTS		SOUTH DOG SHOW RESULTS		EAST DOG SHOW RESULTS		WEST DOG SHOW RESULTS	
	HANDLER	DOG	HANDLER	DOG	HANDLER	DOG	HANDLER	DOG
1	BOB	STAR	BOB	STAR	SAM	ZIGGY	SOPHIE	FIDO
2	JAMES	BUSTER	ANNA	SKY	BOB	STORM	SAM	ZIGGY
3	DAVID	TITAN	SAM	ZIGGY	ZARA	CHASE	TINA	PLUTO
4	LAURA	CHEDAR	HEATHER	CHAI	SARAH	ROLO	HARVEY	SAMSON
5	SOPHIE	LEAF	ZARA	CHASE	ANNA	SKY	HARVEY	LUDO
6	BOB	PIPPIN	SAM	TRIP	THEO	ROVER	FRED	TYBALT
ETC								



## YKC DOG GROOMING GENERAL RULES

### EXAMPLE CONT

#### 4. Step 2 Repeated (x2)

- i. As 10 spaces have still not been filled, 3<sup>rd</sup> place is now looked at
  - a. Sam is greyed out as they have already qualified
  - b. Tina is removed (in red) as she received time faults
  - c. David and Zara are both given spaces as that brings the total qualified to 7

PLACE	NORTH DOG SHOW RESULTS		SOUTH DOG SHOW RESULTS		EAST DOG SHOW RESULTS		WEST DOG SHOW RESULTS	
	HANDLER	DOG	HANDLER	DOG	HANDLER	DOG	HANDLER	DOG
1	BOB	STAR	BOB	STAR	SAM	ZIGGY	SOPHIE	FIDO
2	JAMES	BUSTER	ANNA	SKY	BOB	STORM	SAM	ZIGGY
3	DAVID	TITAN	SAM	ZIGGY	ZARA	CHASE	TINA	PLUTO
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ETC								

#### 5. Step 2 Repeated (x3)

- i. Again, 10 spaces have still not been filled; 4<sup>th</sup> place is now considered
- ii. All 4 members with 4<sup>th</sup> places have not yet qualified, only 3 spaces are available
- iii. All 4<sup>th</sup> place names go into a hat (Blue)

PLACE	NORTH DOG SHOW RESULTS		SOUTH DOG SHOW RESULTS		EAST DOG SHOW RESULTS		WEST DOG SHOW RESULTS	
	HANDLER	DOG	HANDLER	DOG	HANDLER	DOG	HANDLER	DOG
1	BOB	STAR	BOB	STAR	SAM	ZIGGY	SOPHIE	FIDO
2	JAMES	BUSTER	ANNA	SKY	BOB	STORM	SAM	ZIGGY
3	DAVID	TITAN	SAM	ZIGGY	ZARA	CHASE	TINA	PLUTO
4	LAURA	CHEDAR	HEATHER	CHAI	SARAH	ROLO	HARVEY	SAMSON
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6	BOB	PIPPIN	SAM	TRIP	THEO	ROVER	FRED	TYBALT
ETC								

#### 1. Step 2 conclusion

- i. Of the 4 names in the hat, 3 are selected at random
- ii. Sarah's name was not picked from the hat, therefore she does not qualify
- iii. Laura, Heather and Harvey were randomly selected and will qualify
- iv. 10 spaces have now been filled

PLACE	NORTH DOG SHOW RESULTS		SOUTH DOG SHOW RESULTS		EAST DOG SHOW RESULTS		WEST DOG SHOW RESULTS	
	HANDLER	DOG	HANDLER	DOG	HANDLER	DOG	HANDLER	DOG
1	BOB	STAR	BOB	STAR	SAM	ZIGGY	SOPHIE	FIDO
2	JAMES	BUSTER	ANNA	SKY	BOB	STORM	SAM	ZIGGY
3	DAVID	TITAN	SAM	ZIGGY	ZARA	CHASE	TINA	PLUTO
4	LAURA	CHEDAR	HEATHER	CHAI	SARAH	ROLO	HARVEY	SAMSON
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6	BOB	PIPPIN	SAM	TRIP	THEO	ROVER	FRED	TYBALT
ETC								

#### 1. Who qualified in this example?

- i. In this example, all those in yellow have qualified
- ii. A special mention should be made to Bob,
  - a. He qualified Star by placing first at the North Dog show

When entering Crufts, Bob may pick either "Star" or "Storm" as the dog he is entering.

4<sup>th</sup> Place was being considered for spaces, therefore Bob placing 2<sup>nd</sup> with Storm at the East Dog show allows him to pick that dog. (*n.b. this is not the case for the YKC Pairs competition.*)



**DOG GROOMING COMPETITIONS  
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**SECTION 2:  
GROOM THROUGH**



## TLDR: ONE PAGE RULES

# YKC GROOM THROUGH

### 1. THIS IS A SUMMARY ONLY

- i. PLEASE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FULL YKC ADOTY RULES

(1) YKC Groom Through competitions last up to 2½ hours

(i) An option 10 min break will be held at the half way point for

### 2. The age ranges for this class are are:

- i. [06-11 Years] – [12-17 Years] – [18-24 Years]

### 3. YKC Groom Through competitions will be judged using the following criteria:

- i. Basic trimming of feet, ears and tail for the purpose of tidying the coat
  - a. this should not be the main focus of this assessment.
- ii. No dead hair remaining.
  - a. no loose hair or dirt should remain in the dog's coat
- iii. No knots or matts in the coat
- iv. Clean ears, eyes & teeth.
  - a. cleanliness of ears, eyes, mouth and other sensitive areas
- v. Nails of a suitable length
  - a. claws should be short
- vi. The dog should be bathed prior to the competition with no sign of shampoo or conditioner remaining in the coat,
- vii. skin should be healthy

### 4. You qualify for the YKC Groom Through final by winning a YKC Dog Groom Through class during the qualifying year.

- i. Other qualification methods are available – see document





## GROOM THROUGH – FULL RULES

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### A:

#### DEFINITION

1. The 'Groom Through' class is for groomers to show their understanding and skill required to remove all dead hair and tangles from the dog's coat. It is acceptable for the competitor to complete a small amount of trimming to tidy the feet, ears and tail. This will form part of the assessment if completed.

### B:

#### HANDLERS

1. The following three subcategories will be open for members to compete in:

##### Groom Through

- Handler 06-11 Years
- Handler 12-17 Years
- Handler 18-24 Years

### C:

#### GROOM THROUGH CRITERIA

1. YKC Groom Through competitions will be judged using the following criteria:
  - i. Basic trimming of feet, ears and tail for the purpose of tidying the coat
    - a. this should not be the main focus of this assessment.
  - ii. No dead hair remaining.
    - a. no loose hair or dirt should remain in the dog's coat
  - iii. No knots or matts in the coat
  - iv. Clean ears, eyes & teeth.
    - a. cleanliness of ears, eyes, mouth and other sensitive areas
  - v. Nails of a suitable length
    - a. claws should be short
  - vi. The dog should be bathed prior to the competition with no sign of shampoo or conditioner remaining in the coat,
  - vii. skin should be healthy
2. During qualifying competitions, awards will be allocated 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> in each subcategory.

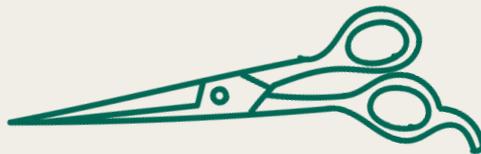
### D:

#### THE FINAL

1. The final at Crufts will be split into 3 distinct sections:
  - i. Initial Parade (*Held in YKC ring*)
  - ii. Dog grooming competition (*held in a breed ring TBC*)
  - iii. Final Parade & Prize Giving (*Held in YKC ring*)
2. 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> in each subcategory will be awarded during the prize giving
  - i. An overall first place combining Groom Through AND Clip, Trim & Strip will also be awarded as one member is crowned "YKC Dog Groomer of the Year"



**DOG GROOMING COMPETITIONS  
RULES 2023 (CRUFTS 2024)**



**SECTION 3:  
CLIP, TRIM & STRIP**



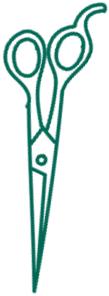
## TLDR: ONE PAGE RULES

# CLIP, TRIM & STRIP

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1. THIS IS A SUMMARY ONLY
  - i. PLEASE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FULL YKC ADOTY RULES
    - (1) YKC Groom Through competitions last up to 2½ hours
      - (i) An option 10 min break will be held at the half way point for
2. The age ranges for this class are are:
  - i. [06-11 Years] – [12-17 Years] – [18-24 Years]
3. YKC Groom Through competitions will be judged using the following criteria:
  - i. The handler will be judged on the ability they have shown with any grooming skills they have used to remove the coat.
    - a. The coat should be even in length for trimmed and clipped coats
  - ii. Stripped coats should lie flat and give a smart appearance.
  - iii. No dead hair remaining.
    - a. no loose hair or dirt should remain in the dog's coat
  - iv. No knots or matts in the coat
  - v. Clean ears, eyes & teeth.
    - a. cleanliness of ears, eyes, mouth and other sensitive areas
  - vi. Nails of a suitable length
    - a. claws should be short
  - vii. The dog should be bathed prior to the competition with no sign of shampoo or conditioner remaining in the coat,
  - viii. skin should be healthy
4. You qualify for the YKC Groom Through final by winning a YKC Dog Groom Through class during the qualifying year.
  - i. Other qualification methods are available – see document





## CLIP, TRIM & STRIP

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# A:

## DEFINITION

1. Show skills in coat removal by stripping, trimming and/or clipping the coat.
  - i. Competitors may use either one or all of these skills in this class.

# B:

## HANDLERS

1. The following three subcategories will be open for members to compete in:

### Clip, Trim & Strip

- Handler 06-11 Years
- Handler 12-17 Years
- Handler 18-24 Years

# C:

## CLIP, TRIM & STRIP CRITERIA

1. YKC Clip, Trim & Strip competitions will be judged using the following criteria:
  - i. The handler will be judged on the ability they have shown with any grooming skills they have used to remove the coat.
    - a. The coat should be even in length for trimmed and clipped coats
  - ii. Stripped coats should lie flat and give a smart appearance.
  - iii. No dead hair remaining.
    - a. no loose hair or dirt should remain in the dog's coat
  - iv. No knots or matts in the coat
  - v. Clean ears, eyes & teeth.
    - a. cleanliness of ears, eyes, mouth and other sensitive areas
  - vi. Nails of a suitable length
    - a. claws should be short
  - vii. The dog should be bathed prior to the competition with no sign of shampoo or conditioner remaining in the coat,
  - viii. skin should be healthy
2. During qualifying competitions, awards will be allocated 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> in each subcategory.

# D:

## THE FINAL

1. The final at Crufts will be split into 3 distinct sections:
  - i. Initial Parade (*Held in YKC ring*)
  - ii. Dog grooming competition (*held in a breed ring TBC*)
  - iii. Final Parade & Prize Giving (*Held in YKC ring*)
2. 1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> in each subcategory will be awarded during the prize giving
  - i. An overall first place combining Groom Through AND Clip, Trim & Strip will also be awarded as one member is crowned "YKC Dog Groomer of the Year"



**DOG GROOMING COMPETITIONS  
RULES 2023 (CRUFTS 2024)**



**SECTION: 4**

**CRUFTS QUALIFICATION SPACES AVAILABLE**



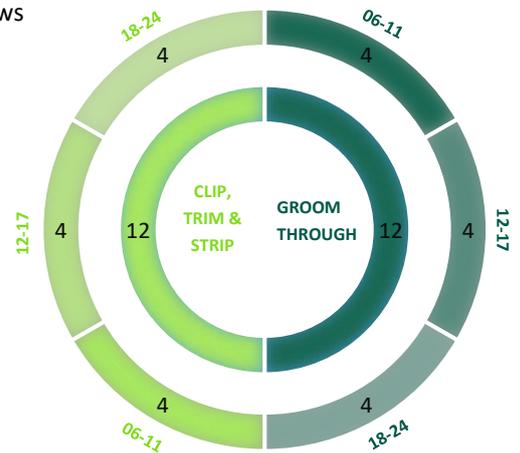
## YKC CRUFTS QUALIFICATION SPACES

# A: QUALIFICATION SPACES AVAILABLE

Across all subcategories, there is a soft-cap\* of 24 spaces available for members to qualify for.

1. The allocation of spaces will be as follows:
  - i. 12 spaces for Groom Through
  - ii. 12 spaces for Clip, Trim & Strip
2. Each class will be further split into each height as follows:
  - i. 5 spaces for every subcategory e.g.
    - a. 4 spaces for 06-11 – Groom Through
    - b. 4 spaces for 12-17 – Groom Through
    - c. 4 spaces for 18-24 – Groom Through
    - d. 4 spaces for 06-11 – Clip, Trim & Strip
    - e. 4 spaces for 12-17 – Clip, Trim & Strip
    - f. 4 spaces for 18-24 – Clip, Trim & Strip

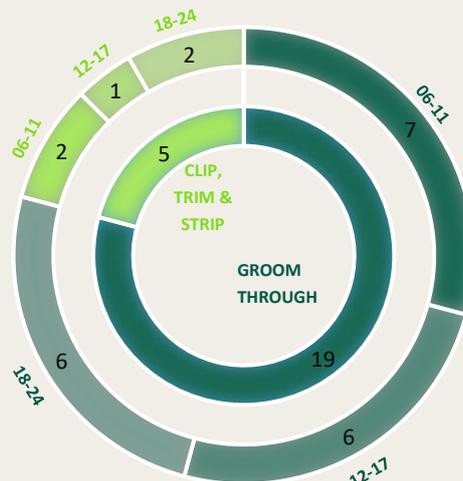
Ideal distribution of available spaces



\*If there are more than 24 unique 1<sup>st</sup> placed competitors across all YKC dog grooming qualifiers, the YKC will honour each of them even if that means more than 60 total pairs

3. If a subcategory (eg 06-11 - Clip, Trim & Strip), does not manage to fill all 4 qualification spaces, the remaining spaces will be randomly (but evenly) distributed between the other age categories in that class.
  - i. eg [12– 17 Clip, Trim & Strip] and [18– 24 Clip, Trim & Strip] until all 12 age category spaces are filled
  - ii. If a class still does not manage to fill all 12 allocated spaces, the spaces will be offered to the other class
    - a. A third of the available spaces going to each age category
      - (1) if an odd number of spaces are available, the youngest eligible age category will be offered the slightly larger share of spaces.
    - b. In this example if the [Clip, Trim & Strip] class could only fill 5 pairs spaces out of the 12 max, 7 spaces would be split between all three age categories of the [Groom Through] class.
      - (1) The [06-11 Groom Through] category would receive 3 additional spaces, whereas the [12-17 – Groom Through] & [18-24 Groom Through] would receive 2 additional spaces each. See below an example

## EXAMPLE



EXAMPLE OF REDISTRIBUTED SPACES USING ABOVE FIGURES



**DOG GROOMING COMPETITIONS  
RULES 2023 (CRUFTS 2024)**



**SECTION 5:  
SHOW SECRETARY INFORMATION**



## SHOW SECRETARY INFORMATION

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### A:

1. This section is for Show Secretaries that are holding YKC Crufts Dog Grooming Qualifiers
  2. In this section you will find the following
    - b. Suggestions on how you may wish to run the classes
    - c. Latest schedule wording for YKC classes
    - d. What the YKC will supply before your show
    - e. What the YKC requires to be sent after the competition
- 

### DEFINITION

### B:

1. When holding a YKC Dog Grooming competition you will be effectively holding 6 classes per qualifier.
2. Handlers may only enter either the Groom Through OR Clip, Trim & Strip

### SUGGESTIONS ON HOLDING YKC DOG GROOMING CLASSES

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### C:

### WHAT THE YKC WILL SUPPLY

3. Below is a list of items the YKC will supply for your show:
    - i. Rosettes & Certificates for the following:
      - (1) 3 sets of 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Groom Through
    - ii. Rosettes & Certificates for the following:
      - (1) 3 sets of 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Clip, Trim & Strip
  4. Please note, the YKC will NOT supply any of the following:
    - i. Trophies
    - ii. Rosettes or Certificates to lower placings
    - iii. Prize money
    - iv. Results sheet
- 

### D:

### WHAT THE YKC NEEDS BACK FROM YOU

1. A full set of results from each of the YKC qualifying classes including:
  - i. Class Name
  - ii. Place
  - iii. YKC Members Name
  - iv. YKC Membership Number
  - v. Dog's KC name
  - vi. Dog's KC number
2. The information above shall be required as soon as possible, but no later than 3 weeks after the last day of the show.
3. Please submit via email to: [ykc@thekennelclub.org.uk](mailto:ykc@thekennelclub.org.uk)



**DOG GROOMING COMPETITIONS  
RULES 2023 (CRUFTS 2024)**



**SECTION 8:  
APPENDIX**

# A:

## CONSIDERED QUALIFICATION METHODS

1. The YKC have considered multiple different qualification techniques to choose which would be the best for our members which will be outlined below:
2. **First place only – *Partially Accepted***
  - i. This method would require you to gain a 1<sup>st</sup> place at qualifying show. No other result would be acceptable.
  - ii. Pros
    - a. Very simple to understand
    - b. Guarantees a high standard of competitor
  - iii. Cons
    - a. If a competitor wins a qualifier, either:
      - (1) Any subsequent wins block other people from qualifying
      - (2) The competitor is forbidden to compete in this competition further
    - b. If one of the classes has no entries or all competitors are eliminated, the qualification space is lost
  - iv. Conclusion
    - a. For most YKC competitions, this method is too simplistic and would result in either 1 person blocking multiple people from qualifying or would bar a competitor from entering heats;
3. **League Table – *Rejected***
  - i. This method would allocate points to each place (down to 20<sup>th</sup>) of the qualifier. Dog and Handlers would gain points at each show, with the highest X number of competitors making it through to the finals
  - ii. Pros
    - a. Each win or place gets you one step closer to the final
    - b. Competitors are allowed and encouraged to enter as many shows as possible
    - c. Makes use of all allocated spaces
  - iii. Cons
    - a. This method rewards competitors who are able to travel, rather than the highest skilled competitor
      - (1) Some families may not be in a financial position to travel to every YKC show, therefore making qualification potentially a question of: “are you rich enough to compete”
    - b. Winning a qualifying heat may not qualify you
    - c. You will only know if you have qualified at the end of the year
  - iv. Conclusion:
    - a. The YKC does not wish to implement a system whereby you must continually chase points. It is not our desire to make people poorer for attempting to qualify. League based systems work when qualifiers are all local, as the distance barrier is removed, however on a national scale, such as YKC qualifiers, it is not a fair method.

#### 4. First Place & Roll Down - *Rejected*

- i. This method is similar to the first method discussed, however, instead of previous winners blocking the progress other competitors, if a previous winner did win again, the qualification space would roll down to the next competitor in the category who had not yet qualified.
- ii. Pros
  - a. Largely well understood
  - b. Allows members who have already qualified to compete without withholding places from other competitors
- iii. Cons
  - a. A person coming 2<sup>nd</sup> at the first event of the season would not qualify whereas potentially a person coming 10<sup>th</sup> (for example) at the last event of the season might
    - (1) This would give an advantage to those entering shows at the end of the year
  - b. The roll down list would need serious thought into how dogs across different height categories would roll down
  - c. If any delay in gathering results occurs, it would be unclear if you have received a roll down place or not
  - d. It is not possible to guarantee the skill level based on a roll down system
  - e. If one of the classes has no entries or all competitors are eliminated, the qualification space is lost
- iv. Conclusion:
  - a. As the YKC shows are not evenly distributed throughout the UK at all times during the year, certain regions may find more of their shows at the beginning of the year, rather than end. People attending shows at the start of the year have less of a chance of qualifying. It also can be confusing and demoralising when someone who gained 10<sup>th</sup> place was able to qualify whereas your 2<sup>nd</sup> place does not.

#### 5. Points based system - *Rejected*

- i. A hybrid between a league and a first place only option, this method awarded points based on whether you came 1<sup>st</sup> [30 points], 2<sup>nd</sup> [15 points] or 3<sup>rd</sup> [10 Points]. If you accrued 30 points across the year then you successfully qualified.
- ii. Pros:
  - a. Once attaining 30 points, you were guaranteed a qualification space
  - b. Allows people who keep coming 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> to the same people a route to still qualify
  - c. Does not force anyone to chase points
- iii. Cons:
  - a. It was still possible for members to block progression for others as the points did not roll down.
    - (1) If there was a roll down of points, too many people would qualify
  - b. It was not clear how many competitors would qualify in a given year
- iv. Conclusion:
  - a. This was the YKC's preferred qualification method until 2023. Upon review, this method just pushes the blocking down to the third-place position, and attaining 3 x third places is challenging, especially in certain competitions. As such the YKC has moved to a different qualification method in 2023.

**6. Giant Combined Scoresheet - Rejected**

- i. This method would combine all of the results from every YKC qualifier into 1 giant results sheet. Instead of having course time and faults determine the winner, the course time would be converted into average speed (m/sec) by also capturing the course length.
- ii. Pros
  - a. This would capture the fastest dogs completing courses with the fewest faults which should theoretically guarantee a level of skill
  - b. Promotes a healthy competitive scene as going for a steady clear may not be sufficient to gain qualification.
- iii. Cons
  - a. Not all courses are created equal – some courses may feature long winding course sections that will arbitrarily lower any competitors average speed if the judge set a particularly “twisty” course.
  - b. Additionally, weather conditions would also have a major impact on whether or not you had a good chance of qualifying for the finals, as poor weather conditions will adversely affect your average speed.
  - c. Qualification would be unknown until the end of the year
  - d. In practice, skill is not guaranteed as the fastest dog around a simple course with mostly straight lines does not indicate whether the dog would be similarly as good around a more complex course.

**7. Random Ballot - Rejected**

- i. This method would get rid of all qualifiers and simply allow any member to submit a ballot and receive an equal chance of being selected to compete.
- ii. Pros
  - a. Very simple
  - b. Method of selection is “fair” – although problematic
- iii. Cons
  - a. Has nothing to do with skill
  - b. Does not promote the activity of participating in dog grooming
  - c. No guarantee of any dog grooming prowess
  - d. Just opting for a ballot removes all YKC qualifiers and removes opportunities for our members to compete against those in a similar age bracket
- iv. Conclusion
  - a. The YKC wants to promote youth competitions, not remove them.

**8. Top X invited to a semi-final - Rejected**

- i. This method would see the top X number of competitors from each qualifying heat invited to complete in a semi-final (location unknown) before Crufts, with the placings of that determining who is invited to Crufts.
- ii. Pros
  - a. By condensing the qualification process down to a competition, all competitors who make it to the semi-finals have the same chance, over the same course, in the same conditions to qualify.
  - b. Would allow the qualifiers to let through more participants
  - c. Could allow more qualifiers as the burden of qualifying for Crufts is up to the semi-final, not the qualifying heats
    - (1) One of the largest problems we have for Crufts qualifiers is that Crufts is only 4 days long. Trying to cram every dog discipline with multiple classes,

each with 3 age categories is incredibly difficult and heavily restricts the number of qualifiers we are able to offer to clubs.

- iii. Cons:
  - a. Location. If we were to hold a 1-day semi-final it would have to take place in the midlands (we would need to be as equally unfair to Scotland as we would be to Cornwall). This in itself makes it unfair if you live nowhere near the midlands.
  - b. The semi-final would need to be held in November, after all our qualifiers had concluded. Holding an event in November would necessitate that it must be an indoor venue.
- iv. Conclusion:
  - a. This option was heavily considered, but ultimately rejected based on the two cons above. Members from Northern Ireland, Scotland and any of the south coastal regions of England would be disenfranchised by a centralised semi-final.

#### 9. Waterfall Method – *Accepted*

- i. This method would see all those getting 1<sup>st</sup> place qualifying for final. Any qualification spaces not filled by the 1<sup>st</sup> places would be randomly awarded to competitors who achieved a 2<sup>nd</sup> place at qualifiers. Any qualification spaces not filled by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Places would be randomly awarded to competitors who achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Etc
- ii. Pros
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> Place Guarantees qualification
  - b. No member can block the qualification of another member
  - c. All competitors who achieved a certain place are on an equal footing
    - (1) E.g. all 2<sup>nd</sup> place competitors in a subcategory are just as likely to be selected as each other
  - d. Because qualification is only awarded at the end of the year, all qualification spots can be filled
- iii. Cons:
  - a. One of the most complicated qualification methods
  - b. All those who did not come first will need to wait till the qualification year is over to know if they have qualified
  - c. Randomly allocated spaces can feel unfair if you were unsuccessful
- iv. Conclusion:
  - a. The YKC will try out this new method of qualification across all of its qualifiers, whilst it does have some issues, namely the complexity and the late announcement of who has qualified, the YKC believes this method will strike a balance between allowing previously qualified members to continue competing and to allow those not yet qualified to still have a chance of reaching the finals.