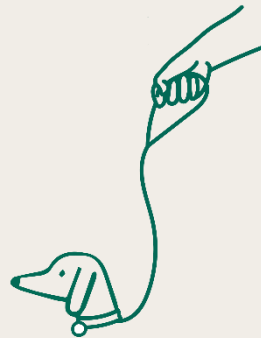




**YKC HANDLING**



**HANDLING COMPETITIONS**  
**RULES 2025 (CRUFTS 2026)**



## A: HANDLERS

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

06-11 Years

12-17 Years

18-24 Years

2. Only current YKC members may compete in YKC Classes.
3. Use the YKC member's age on the first day of the show to work out which age category a YKC member should enter.

## B: DOGS

1. Bitches in season will not be allowed to compete in any YKC Handling competition.
2. All competing dogs must be six calendar months of age or over on the day of competition.
3. 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.
  - ii. As of 07/JAN/2020, dogs entering a handling class as their only entry at a show must be on a Kennel Club breed register **OR** the activity register.
    - a. If a dog wishes to participate in both a handling class and a breed class at a show, the dog must be on the relevant breed register.

## C: YKC HANDLING QUALIFIERS

1. **By entering a YKC qualifier, the YKC member and anyone representing them (parent/guardian etc) agree to abide by the YKC's Code of Conduct**
2. YKC Handling qualifiers will be judged in-line with the YKC Handling Judges Criteria, available on the YKC website.
  - i. The winner will be the handler who the judge has deemed to have exhibited their dog the best according to the guidelines mentioned above.
3. When entering a YKC handling class, enter the age category you would be on the first day of the show.
4. YKC members must enter a dog into the class, the dog entered will have the following information recorded:
  - i. Dog's Kennel Club Name.
  - ii. Dog's Breed.
  - iii. Dog's Group.
    - a. Crossbreed dogs should record their group as "Crossbreed".
5. YKC handling classes are not linked to which breeds are being exhibited on the day of the qualifier.
  - i. If a show has qualifiers across multiple days, any breed of dog may be handled on any day, providing the below rule C.6 is followed.
6. When a show holds YKC qualifiers over multiple days, if a YKC member wishes to enter a YKC handling qualifier on more than one day, each YKC handling entry must be with a different dog.
  - i. Simply, rule C.6 is to stop YKC members entering the same dog on across multiple days at the same show and thereby having repeated attempts of qualifying that group at the same show.
7. YKC Handling classes may be the first and only entry for a dog at a show.
  - i. You do not have to enter your dog in the relevant breed class at the same show when entering a YKC handling qualifier.
8. Crossbreed dogs may compete in YKC handling competitions.
9. A YKC member may only handle one dog per class.
10. YKC Members may enter YKC handling classes if they have already qualified.
11. YKC Handling qualifiers are listed on the YKC website, please ensure that you are entering a valid YKC qualifier.



## D: YKC HANDLING - WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE FINALS?

1. **THE YKC QUALIFYING SEASON FOR YKC HANDLING RUNS FROM 1<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2025 TO 30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025.**
2. There will be 3 categories for YKC members to qualify for with 54 spaces available for each category (making a total of 162 spaces.)
3. The categories will be subdivided as follows:
  - Handler 06-11 Years (54 Spaces)
  - Handler 12-17 Years (54 Spaces)
  - Handler 18-24 Years (54 Spaces)
4. **First place at any YKC Handling qualifier during this season will guarantee a space in the final**
5. **The YKC will hold a semi-final for those receiving 2nd and 3rd places in October 2025.**
  - i. **This semi-final will be to fill the remaining number of spaces for the YKC stakes individual competitions at Crufts.**
  - ii. Any unused spaces in an age category will be lost as the age categories will be occurring on different days.

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## E: YKC HANDLING – OCTOBER SEMI-FINAL

1. 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place in any YKC Handling qualifier will make you eligible to enter the YKC Handling Semi-Final in October
  - i. This is subject to there being additional spaces available to qualify for in that class e.g.:
    - a. If at least 54 Handlers have already qualified for the 12-17 Class, there will be no semi-final heat for that class in October.
2. If any Handling semi-final class becomes too large to judge effectively, the classes will be split at random, and any qualification spaces will be evenly distributed between the two classes.
3. The Semi-Final will be held at the Kennel Club Building – Stoneleigh
  - i. The YKC reserves the right to alter this location & date, but will only do so if strictly necessary.

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## F: HOW MANY DOGS CAN I QUALIFY FOR YKC HANDLING?

1. You may qualify as many different dogs as you wish for the YKC Handling finals at Crufts **HOWEVER:**
  - i. **YOU MAY ONLY ENTER A MAXIMUM OF ONE DOG TO THE FINALS AT CRUFTS.**
2. A handler is allowed to swap dogs to any breed/crossbreed and change group.
  - i. This must be reported to the YKC at the earliest opportunity.
    - a. The latest you may swap a dog from the one entered is 7 days before the first day of Crufts unless;
  - ii. Swapping dogs on the day of the competition at Crufts must be done during check in and before the start of the competition.
    - a. The dog you are swapping to must already be entered into another YKC class or a Breed class at the show.



## **G** YKC HANDLING AT CRUFTS – FINALS

1. By entering a YKC class, the YKC member and anyone representing them (parent/guardian etc) agree to abide by the YKC’s Code of Conduct.
2. The finals for the YKC Handling competitions are held at Crufts in the YKC ring.
3. The handling competitions at Crufts will be broken down into the following 9 classes (3 per day):

| DAY (TBC)   | DAY (TBC)   | SUNDAY  |
|---|---|---|
| <b>CLASS 1</b><br>Handler 18-24 Years<br>(Max. 18 Handlers) | <b>CLASS 4</b><br>Handler 12-17 Years<br>(Max. 18 Handlers) | <b>CLASS 7</b><br>Handler 06-11 Years<br>(Max. 18 Handlers)   |
| <b>CLASS 2</b><br>Handler 18-24 Years<br>(Max. 18 Handlers) | <b>CLASS 5</b><br>Handler 12-17 Years<br>(Max. 18 Handlers) | <b>CLASS 8</b><br>Handler 06-11 Years<br>(Max. 18 Handlers)   |
| <b>CLASS 3</b><br>Handler 18-24 Years<br>(Max. 18 Handlers) | <b>CLASS 6</b><br>Handler 12-17 Years<br>(Max. 18 Handlers) | <b>CLASS 9</b><br>Handler 06-11 Years<br>(Max. 18 Handlers)   |
|   |   | <b>GRAND FINAL</b><br>1 <sup>st</sup> Places from classes 1-9 |

4. Successful handlers will be evenly distributed into the relevant classes.
  - i. Those YKC members who qualified with 1<sup>st</sup> places throughout the season will be placed into the classes first (to make sure there are some 1<sup>st</sup> places in each of the classes)
5. YKC Handling at Crufts will be judged in the same manner as the qualifiers.
6. Awards will be presented in the ring.
7. At Crufts, the YKC member’s age will be calculated as that member’s age on the first day of Crufts.
  - i. The YKC will use this calculated age to determine which age category a YKC member will compete in at Crufts.
    - a. This may be a different age category to the one the YKC member qualified in
    - b. Handlers who turn 25 before the first day of Crufts are not eligible to compete at Crufts in the YKC ring – any qualifications gained for the YKC will be forfeit.
8. Docked dogs may not be entered into the YKC handling finals competition at Crufts.
9. Dogs will be lined up in accordance with the approximate breed height, this will be determined by the YKC ahead of the competition.



## H ■ YKC HANDLING FINALS – PRIZEGIVING

1. The following awards will be presented in the YKC ring for the YKC Handling Finals:

| DAY (TBC)  | DAY (TBC)  | SUNDAY   |
|--|--|--|
| <b>CLASS 1</b><br>Handler 18-24 Years<br>1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> | <b>CLASS 4</b><br>Handler 12-17 Years<br>1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> | <b>CLASS 7</b><br>Handler 06-11 Years<br>1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> |
| <b>CLASS 2</b><br>Handler 18-24 Years<br>1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> | <b>CLASS 5</b><br>Handler 12-17 Years<br>1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> | <b>CLASS 8</b><br>Handler 06-11 Years<br>1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> |
| <b>CLASS 3</b><br>Handler 18-24 Years<br>1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> | <b>CLASS 6</b><br>Handler 12-17 Years<br>1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> | <b>CLASS 9</b><br>Handler 06-11 Years<br>1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> |

## I ■ YKC HANDLER OF THE YEAR – GRAND FINAL

1. The winner of each of the above handling final competitions at Crufts will be invited to take part in the YKC Handler Of The Year Grand Final held in the YKC Ring on Sunday at Crufts. (9 competitors total)
2. Competitors should use the same dog as they handled in the finals.
  - i. If there is a suitable reason this dog may not be used in the Grand Final, a substitute dog may be used only with the agreement of the YKC.

## J ■ YKC HANDLING GRAND FINAL – PRIZEGIVING

1. The following two awards will be presented in the YKC ring for the YKC Handling Grand Final:

|                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>YKC Handler of The Year</b> | <b>YKC Handler of The Year</b> |
| <b>Overall Winner</b>          | <b>Reserve</b>                 |

2. All YKC competitors in the YKC Handling Grand Final will receive a YKC Handling Grand Finalist Rosette.