

# USCA National Conformation Show Rules

## I. GENERAL

Show rules are based on USCA Breed Show Regulations, which are binding unless otherwise stated herein. Entrants are advised that they must submit the following original documents: pedigree and registration papers from the country of origin upon registration check-in for the dog being entered into the show as well as proof of training titles, breed survey, and hip/elbow certification, if applicable or awarded. Acceptable training titles are IPO, IGP, RH 2b, DPO, HGH, and others deemed acceptable by the Breed Advisory Committee. Dogs brought to the show must provide proof of proper vaccination, this is required by law.

Not acceptable for entry into the show are dogs that seem to be unhealthy or have an unhealthy appearance.

Dogs not entered in the show cannot be brought into/onto the show grounds.

Should a dog entered in classes 12-months and older become sick after the Stand Exam, the dog must be presented to the show veterinarian for examination. A written note from the show veterinarian is required for withdrawal from the show. Without exception, this written note is to be delivered to the presiding judge of the appropriate class. Dogs that are withdrawn from the show without explicit permission of the presiding judge must be given the rating of insufficient.

Participants must be alert to prevent their dogs from coming into contact with other dogs. The show organizer is not responsible for injury/damage to any dogs, damages caused by another dog and/or in the event of the theft of any dog. A judge's decision at a breed show is final. A protest is not permitted. For dogs entered and not presented, the full entry fee is non-refundable. The exhibitor is responsible for sportsmanlike behavior and presentation. The exhibitor is also responsible for truthful statements about his/her dog. Violations lead to disqualification of the dog, expulsion from the show grounds and/or the initiation of a disciplinary procedure.

## II. CLASSES AND SCHEDULE

The dogs will be judged in the following classes:

These classes will be judged on the first day of the event:

Baby Puppy Class (4-6 months) - Ratings awarded are: Very Promising (VP), Promising (P), Less Promising (LP)

Junior Puppy Class (6-9 months) - Ratings awarded are: Very Promising (VP), Promising (P), Less Promising (LP)

Senior Puppy Class (9-12 months) - Ratings awarded are: Very Promising (VP), Promising (P), Less Promising (LP)

Adult Untitled Class (24+ months without working title) - Ratings awarded are: Very Good (SG), Good (G), Sufficient (A), Insufficient (M)

RH 1, RH 2a Class (24+ months with RH 1, RH 2a title) – Ratings awarded are: Very Good (SG), Good (G), Sufficient (A), Insufficient (M)

Veteran Classes (over the age 6+ years) - Rating is not awarded, just a placing

These classes will be judged on the second day of the event:

Youth Dog HGH Class (12-18 months) - Ratings awarded are: Very good (SG), Good (G), Sufficient (A), Insufficient (M)

Youth Dog Class (12-18 months) - Ratings awarded are: Very good (SG), Good (G), Sufficient (A), Insufficient (M)

Young Dog HGH Class (18-24 months) - Ratings awarded are: Very good (SG), Good (G), Sufficient (A), Insufficient (M)

Young Dog Class (18-24 months) - Ratings awarded are: Very good (SG), Good (G), Sufficient (A), Insufficient (M)

Progeny Groups

These classes will be judged on the third day of the event:

HGH Working Dog Class (over 24 months with HGH title) - Ratings awarded are: Excellent (V), Very Good (SG), Good (G), Sufficient (A), Insufficient (M)

Working Dog Class (over 24 months with working title, including RH 2b) – Ratings awarded are: Excellent (V), Very Good (SG), Good (G), Sufficient (A), Insufficient (M).

Kennel Groups

The judging in each class starts with the Stand Exam. The judge carefully studies the anatomy, structure, and character of the dog. The character of the dog is tested and the judge will always observe the dog in this respect. There will be a test for Gun sensitivity steadiness in the rings. Puppy Classes are excluded from this test. Once this judging has been completed, the dogs will be required to start gaiting. The function of the bones and muscles, firmness of the ligaments and joints, rhythm of movement, strength and endurance, as well as liveliness are now very carefully evaluated.

To be eligible for the rating of V (Excellent), dogs must possess the “a” Stamp or OFA Certification (if born after October 1, 2021) for hip & elbows, when over the age of three and one-half years, the dog must have a current Breed Survey. The age of the dog for determining the proper class placement will be determined by the age of the dog when it is presented before the judge (meaning the day the dog steps into the ring).

### **Kennel Group**

Each Kennel Group must have no more and no less than (5) five dogs that possess the name of the kennel. These dogs must come from at least two different mothers and two different fathers. Dogs entered in the kennel group must also be entered and shown in a regular class. The dogs must be of the same coat variety. Breeders may enter more than one Kennel Group. Stock Coat and Long Stock Coat Kennel Group will be judged separately. The judging will be based on uniformity of the group, quality of the individual animals and the most possible combinations of parents.

### **Maternal Family Class**

The Maternal Family consists of 4 animals (dogs and/or bitches) from one Kennel, which can be attributed to the direct dam line (maternal kennel name), and must bear the same kennel name.

For registration purposes at the Show, the entry “Maternal-Family“ will be an individual registration form

A minimum of 4 dogs entered from 1 maternal name – male or female – must be presented. The dogs must come directly the from dam’s line and must have the maternal kennel name

The Maternal Family may consist of either permitted coat type (SC/LC)

The presentation and evaluation of maternal family is a separate competition. 50% of the participating animals do not have to be shown in their respective classes. However, registration applies for all animals entered

All dogs must have the appropriate qualifications for their age in terms of titles, breeding surveys and HD/ED results

1. Dogs over 2.5 years of age with no working title are not eligible
2. Dogs over 3.5 years without a breed survey are not eligible
3. All dogs entered must be from parents that are titled/breed surveyed
4. At least one of the dogs must be presented in the working class

If a dog entered in the Maternal Family class becomes ill before the final evaluation, the breeder is free to continue competing or to withdraw the Maternal-Family. If the minimum number cannot be reached due to a dog falling ill, the Maternal Family cannot participate in competition

The evaluation of the Maternal-Family will take place in the ring for Breeders Group Mother-Family Class presentation will immediately precede the performance of the Progeny Group Participation in the Maternal-Family competition must be recorded in the catalog. All dogs that are part of the presentation must be listed individually, under the maternal name. A breeder may register several Maternal Families in the same event

### **Progeny Group**

Each Progeny Group requires a minimum of at least six (6) dogs. Dogs exhibited in the Progeny Class must also be entered and shown in a regular class. There is no entry fee for this class. The judging of the Progeny Group shows the quality of the progeny produced by the often-used stud dogs. It also shows which positive and negative factors may have been inherited by their offspring and what to look for in the future breeding's of these dogs. Therefore, it is required to show all dogs belonging to the Progeny Group. It is not necessary that the stud dog be shown in the class. The Kennel Groups and Progeny Groups will be judged before the judging of the gaiting of the Working Dog Classes.

Explanation of Conformation Assessments and Ratings:

Puppy Classes: The following assessments are made. The assessments cannot be interpreted as an evaluation of breeding worth.

VP (very promising): Animals conforming fully to the breed standard or have minimal anatomical shortcomings.

P (promising): Animals conforming to the standard but presenting clearly recognizable anatomical and developmental shortcomings.

LP (less promising): Animals who are not outgoing enough or have faults which make them unfit for breeding.

Adult Dog Classes: The following ratings can be issued.

V (excellent): Animals in the Working Classes who, after undergoing a thorough examination, fully conform to the breed standard, who are self-confident, outgoing, and indifferent to gun fire, whose pedigree reflects proof of the "a" stamp or OFA certification and when more than 3-1/2 years old, must contain a current breed survey. Double premolars #1 are allowed. OFA not accepted after October 1, 2021.

SG (very good): Highest rating given in the Youth and Young Dog Classes for animals who fully conform to the breed standard. In the Working Classes, this rating goes to animals which meet the requirements for "excellent" but show minor anatomical shortcomings. It also applies to anatomically faultless animals who measure up to one centimeter over or under size limits, or have one missing premolar #1 or one incisor.

G (good): Applies to animals who conform to the standard, but show clearly recognizable anatomical shortcomings. Missing teeth as follows: two missing premolars #1; or one missing premolar #1 and one missing incisor; or one missing premolar #2; or one missing premolar #3; or two missing incisors; or one missing premolar #2 and one incisor; or one missing pre-molar #2 and one missing premolar #1, or 2 missing premolars #2.

A (sufficient): Applies to animals who are on the day of the show, sensitive to gun fire, do not display the required outgoing behavior or whose overall condition including anatomical factors does not permit awarding of a higher rating. M (insufficient): Applies to animals who are gun shy, show poor character and/or do not display the required degree of outgoing behavior or have faults which preclude their use for breeding. This ranking applies also to animals that exceed the upper and/or lower measurement limits by more than one centimeter.

M (insufficient): mandates issuance of a "Unavailable for Progeny Registration" notation which must be requested by the breed judge.

Explanation of the hip ratings:

a1 = "a" normal, OFA (E) = OFA excellent, a2 = "a" fast normal, OFA (G) = OFA good, a3 = "a" noch zugelassen, OFA (F) = OFA fair, a6 = foreign certification

#### Explanation of Entry Information:

An \* before a dog's name means that the dog is breed surveyed. Dog's registered name, date of birth, (age in years, months) USCA registration, additional registration, tattoo, micro-chip, working titles, breed survey rating, hip certification, (sire's name, sire's registration, sire's working titles, dam's name, dam's registration, dam's working titles. B: breeder's name and country of origin, O: owner's name, country of origin, Co-O: co-owner's name.

#### III. ADDENDUM

Officiating Judges are not allowed to judge any dog(s) at a Breed Show which they have owned, co-owned or those which have been in their possession at any time in the past 12-months (the date of notification of the transfer of ownership shall be decisive in cases of possession). Nor will they be able to judge those dogs which have been bred by them, as well as any dogs owned or co-owned by, or in the possession of, close relatives (1st and 2nd degree). For this purpose, the term "close relatives" also refers to life partnerships, groups of owners and shared households. In this respect, please note that, as of immediately, any dogs which fulfill the criteria mentioned may not be judged by the Judge of the respective class at a Breed Show.