



2025 AKC Trick Dog National Competition!

New Specials Categories for:

Puppies, Senior Dogs, More than 1 Handler, More than 1 Dog

We are excited to announce the AKC Trick Dog National Competition for 2025.

All AKC Trick Dogs who have earned the Elite Performer title can enter the regular Adult competition. As long as their dogs have a Trick Dog title, Juniors may enter the Juniors competition at any level.

See the Announcement for the general competition.

Because the competition is virtual (i.e., the judging will be done via video), trick dogs everywhere can participate.

SPECIALS CATEGORIES

The new specials categories for 2025 will be:

- 1) Puppies
- 2) Seniors
- 3) More than 1 dog
- 4) More than 1 person

NEW 2025 RULES:

- **No edits allowed** – the video must be one continuous take as though you were filming a performance at a school, etc. If the dog makes a mistake, just keep going or repeat the cue.
- **No music unless it is royalty-free.**

Puppies

This category is non-competitive. Outstanding puppy performances will be announced.

- Must have an AKC, PAL or AKC Canine Partner number
- No AKC Trick Dog title is required to enter
- Puppy must be 6 months or under when the video is made.
- May film anytime starting now- if you have a puppy now or will get one soon, you may make your video now and submit it in August – October.
- Up to 10 tricks – must be puppy appropriate (e.g., no jumping or extremely physical tricks)
- Does not require a routine. You may have a skit, or you may show 10 individual tricks.
- May use food rewards, but food should not be used as a lure.
- Tricks may be simplified tricks from the Tricks Guide or the handler may make them up as long as they are puppy appropriate).
- If you apply for an AKC Trick Dog title later, the tricks you entered in the competition may be used again.

Senior Dogs

This category is non-competitive. Outstanding Senior performances will be announced.

Senior dog entries should follow the rules of the regular (Adult) competition.

A Senior dog may enter the Specials Senior Category, and it may also enter the regular adult category. The routine may be the same, however, a Specials Category entry form must also be submitted.

Depending on a breed or size, the age for a “senior” dog may vary. For example, a toy breed at 6 years old, may be in its prime, while a giant breed, such as a Great Dane, may truly be a senior at 6 years old.

The chart below shows weights and general size categories along with the ages for senior dogs for the competition. To determine the ages of senior dogs, we looked at lifespan charts for breeds and sizes and subtracted 3 years so the dog would still be in good performance condition. For example, if the life span of a breed was 12 to 15 years, we subtracted 3 years from the low end (12) and defined the senior dog as 9 years or older.

General Size	Weight Range	Age for Senior Dogs AKC Trick Dog Competition
Toy breeds/mixes	10 lbs and under	Must be 10 years older to enter
Small breeds/mixes	11 - 20 lbs	9 years older to enter
Medium breeds/mixes	21 to 55 lbs	9 years older to enter
Large breeds/mixes	56 to 90 lbs	8 years or older to enter
Very large or giant breeds/mixes	91 pounds or over for this category	6 years or older to enter

More than 1 Dog

More than 1 Handler

These categories are competitive (e.g., there will be a 1st place).

These entries should follow the rules of the regular (Adult) competition.

For both More than 1 Dog and More than 1 Handler, the dog(s) should be entered in the Specials Category and the Specials Entry form should be submitted.

For More than 1 Dog:

- It is up to the handler as to how many tricks each dog does. A second dog could be used as a part of the routine (e.g., the princess in the tower) and do no tricks. However, more than 1 dog doing tricks would be fabulous!
- The dogs do not need to be Elite Performers.

For more than 1 Person:

- The other person/people may be a handler or they may have an inactive role.
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General Rules for Standard Adult Competition (a reminder)

How it works: Submit a video to AKC of your dog's trick dog routine. The routine must be no longer than 6 minutes and may include props. The 6 minutes includes the time for moving props during the routine and performing the tricks. If you choose to give a speech at the beginning of your routine, this is counted in the 6 minutes.

You may use a new video, or a video previously submitted to AKC for review to earn your title. Videos that were entered in previous AKC Virtual Tricks competitions may not be submitted again.

As is the case with all Elite Performer routines, there must be a theme or story. For this virtual competition, an audience is not required.

If you have more than one great routine, you may submit up to two videos (per dog) to the competition.

When: To enter, submit your video between Friday, August 1, 2025, and Wednesday, October 1, 2025. Three judges will judge the entries and the winners will be announced in December 2025.

The winner and two semi-finalists of the 2025 AKC Trick Dog Competition will receive trophies.

There will also be breed prizes, qualifying rosettes, and a beautiful 2025 AKC National Trick Dog competition medal for every qualifying entry.

Competition rules and details will be posted at:

<https://www.akc.org/sports/trick-dog/>

Entry forms will be posted by August 1, 2025, at <https://www.akc.org/sports/trick-dog/>

For questions, email: trickdog@akc.org

ENTRIES OPEN: Friday, August 1, 2025

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: Wednesday, October 1, 2025