



RULES FOR THE 2025 AKC TRICK DOG COMPETITION

Juniors

Attention Juniors! We are pleased to announce the Junior Division for the 2025 Virtual AKC Trick Dog National Competition.

The Juniors competition is for handlers 17 years old and younger.

How it works: Submit a video of your dog performing the tricks for the highest level of Tricks title the dog has earned from AKC (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Performer, or Elite Performer).

- The dog must already have a Trick Dog title (in your hands by the entry opening date of August 1, 2025) to enter the competition. For the Junior division only, the title required for entering may be Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Performer, or Elite Performer. (The regular Tricks competition is for Elite Performer only and there are separate rules).
- The Juniors division is for handlers 17 years old and under.
 - Age divisions for Juniors are 1) 9 years and under.
2) 10 to 13 years old, and 3) 14 to 17 years old.
- Juniors do not have to perform a routine, unless the dog is at the Elite Performer level. This means that in all classes but Elite Performer, Juniors may submit a video of the dog demonstrating one trick after the other with no story.

How it works: Submit a video to AKC of your dog performing at least 10, and not more than 15 tricks. The tricks may include props and music.

New for 2025: If **music** is used, it must be royalty-free.

Juniors may use a new video, or the video submitted to AKC to earn your title. Videos submitted to the competition in past years may not be submitted for the 2025 competition. The video for Juniors may be one continuous video, or short videos of each trick may be edited together.

Juniors may submit only one video (per dog) to the competition. Juniors may enter up to two dogs with one video for each dog.

- Handlers may wear costumes; dogs may wear a decorative collar or neck ruffle, but they may not wear costumes.
- Dogs may **not** wear prong/pinch collars, e-collars, or head collars in the routine. Tricks should be performed off-leash.
- Your tricks will be judged based on:
 - Fluency (accuracy of tricks, difficulty)
 - Handling skills
 - Entertainment value
 - Creativity
 - Overall impression

New in 2025 (Special Categories) – In 2025, there are new Special Categories that include: 1) Puppies, 2) Senior Dogs, 3) More than 1 Handler/Person, 4) More than 1 Dog. Juniors may enter these categories. There is a page of the entry form for these categories.

When: To enter, submit your video between Friday, August 1, 2025, and Wednesday, October 1, 2025.

Judges will judge the submissions, and the winners will be announced in December 2025.

Entry form: The entry form must include:

1. The Application
 2. List of Tricks
 3. Photo release completed and signed by your parent or guardian.
 4. Special Categories form
- Winners in each age group of the Juniors competition will receive a trophy. All qualifiers will receive a rosette and medal.
 - The application including the video link must be received by 5:00 p.m. EST on Wednesday, October 1, 2025. Submit the entry to: trickdog@akc.org

ENTRIES OPEN: Friday, August 1, 2025

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: Wednesday, October 1, 2025