



RULES FOR THE 2025 AKC TRICK DOG COMPETITION

Attention AKC Trick Dogs! We are pleased to announce the 2025 Virtual AKC Trick Dog National Competition.

AKC Elite Performer Trick Dogs everywhere can participate in this exciting annual event.

How it works: Submit a video of your dog's AKC Trick Dog routine.

- As long as your dog has the Elite Performer Trick Dog title, you can submit a routine. The routine may but does not have to adhere to the requirements for earning your AKC Elite Performer Trick Dog title.
 - For example, the Elite Performer title requires that you use at least 5 props and 5 Performer level tricks. While you don't have to do this in your submission for the competition, keep in mind that performances with props and higher-level tricks are likely to score better.
 - There must be a theme or story for the routine. An audience may be present, but is not required.
- The routine may not be longer than 6 minutes. If you move props once you start the routine or talk at the beginning, this is included in the 6 minutes. A minimum of 10 tricks should be included.
- The routine may include music only if it is royalty-free. A script may be read by a helper, the handler may tell the story, the video may include written words to narrate the story, or the handler can use royalty-free music to depict the mood.
- A helper, either a person or a dog, may play a minor role in the routine. Example: the performing dog walks by a Wizard—a person other than the handler is the Wizard. If

there is another person involved in the routine, that person may not handle the dog in the regular competition. If the 2nd person has more than a minor role (e.g., is present for most of the routine or handles the dog), you should enter the Special Category for More Than 1 Person/Handler.

- Handlers may wear costumes; dogs may wear a decorative collar or neck ruffle but may not wear costumes.
- Dogs may not wear prong collars, e-collars, or head collars in the routine.
- You may use a new video, a video previously submitted to AKC for earning a title, or a video of a past trick dog performance. Videos submitted for previous AKC Virtual National Trick Dog Competitions may not be submitted.
- **New for 2025:** If **music** is used, it must be royalty-free.
- Videos should be one continuous take as though your routine was being filmed while you did a performance at a school, hospital, etc.
New for 2025: No edits allowed – the video must be one continuous take. If the dog makes a mistake, just keep going or repeat the cue. Of course, if you aren't satisfied with your video, you can re-shoot it before submitting it to the competition.
- **New for 2025:** There are some new **Special Categories** that can be entered. These include 1) Puppies, 2) Senior Dogs, 3) More than 1 Person/Handler, 4) More than 1 Dog. There is a page on the entry form for these categories.
- The dog must be living to win the competition.
- Routines will be judged based on:
 - creativity
 - fluency (accuracy of tricks, difficulty)
 - flow from one trick to the next
 - handling skills
 - entertainment value
 - overall impression (background, etc.)
- Breed prizes will be awarded at the discretion of the judges. If there was only one dog of a specific breed and the routine was not outstanding, the breed prize might not be awarded.

- You may submit up to two videos (per dog) to the competition. This would include either two entries in the regular competition, or one entry in the regular competition plus one entry in a Special Category.

Entry form: The entry form must include:

1. The Application
2. List of Tricks
3. Photo release
4. Special Categories form

- 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