

# Royal Kennel Club General code of ethics

All breeders who register their puppies, and new owners who register ownership of their dogs with the Royal Kennel Club, accept the jurisdiction of the Royal Kennel Club and undertake to abide by its general code of ethics.

## Breeders/owners:

1. Will properly house, feed, water and exercise all dogs under their care and arrange for appropriate veterinary attention if and when required.
2. Will agree without reservation that any veterinary surgeon who performs an operation on any of their dogs which alters the natural conformation of the animal, or who carries out a caesarean section on a bitch, may report such operations to the Royal Kennel Club.
3. Will agree that no healthy puppy will be culled. Puppies which may not conform to the breed standard should be placed in suitable homes.
4. Will abide by all aspects of the Animal Welfare Act.
5. Will not create demand for, nor supply, puppies that have been docked illegally.
6. Will agree not to breed from a dog or bitch which could be in any way harmful to the dog or to the breed.
7. Will not allow any of their dogs to roam at large or to cause a nuisance to neighbours or those carrying out official duties.
8. Will ensure that their dogs wear properly tagged collars and will be kept leashed or under effective control when away from home.
9. Will clean up after their dogs in public places or anywhere their dogs are being exhibited.
10. Will only sell dogs where there is a reasonable expectation of a happy and healthy life and will help with the rehoming of a dog if the initial circumstances change.
11. Will supply written details of all dietary requirements and give guidance concerning responsible ownership when placing dogs in a new home.
12. Will ensure that all relevant Royal Kennel Club documents are provided to the new owner when selling or transferring a dog, and will agree, in writing, to forward any relevant documents at the earliest opportunity, if not immediately available.
13. Will not sell any dog to commercial dog wholesalers, retail pet dealers or directly or indirectly allow dogs to be given as a prize or donation in a competition of any kind. Will not sell by sale or auction Royal Kennel Club registration certificates as stand alone items (not accompanying a dog).
14. Will not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed nor falsely advertise dogs nor mislead any person regarding the health or quality of a dog.

Breach of these provisions may result in expulsion from Club membership and/or disciplinary action by the Royal Kennel Club and/or reporting to the relevant authorities for legal action, as appropriate.



## Royal Kennel Club

Royal Kennel Club House, Gatehouse Way, Aylesbury, HP19 8DB  
Telephone 01296 318540 • [royalkennelclub.com](http://royalkennelclub.com)

The Royal Kennel Club Limited Incorporated in England and Wales Registered No: 8277778  
10 Clarges Street, London, W1J 8AB VAT No: 239096833

KC/102/14/10/25

All information is correct at time of printing



## Royal Kennel Club

Form 14

# Application for an authority to compete number





# Royal Kennel Club

Thank you for applying to show your dog/bitch in the UK. Please read carefully the relevant section notes contained within the guide before filling in the form.

## Find a dog show

The Royal Kennel Club's database of licensed shows and trials is available for you to search for competitions to enter or to attend as a spectator. There are thousands of clubs all over the country holding varying types of shows. Find a dog show near you, search dog competitions to enter, or to attend as a spectator [royalkennelclub.com/find-a-show](http://royalkennelclub.com/find-a-show)

## Affiliate Membership - £30

### Become a Royal Kennel Club Affiliate today!

Becoming an affiliate can be a rewarding and productive way of contributing to the Royal Kennel Club's overall aim to promote in every way the general improvement of dogs.

You will also receive some great benefits.

### As a Royal Kennel Club Affiliate you will receive:

- A monthly subscription to the Kennel Gazette worth £60
- The Royal Kennel Club Year Book
- Printed copy of the Royal Kennel Club annual report
- A loyalty card - receive exclusive discounts on Royal Kennel Club merchandise, publications and tickets for Crufts



If you would like to become a Royal Kennel Club Affiliate please visit: [royalkennelclub.com/affiliates](http://royalkennelclub.com/affiliates)

## Competing with docked or cropped dogs in the UK

### Docked dogs

The term 'docked' includes dogs which have their tails shortened for medical reasons after the relevant dates - these count as having been docked and therefore such dogs are not allowed to be shown at events where the public are admitted on payment of a fee.

### Dogs which were docked before 6 April 2007 (28 March for shows held in Wales)

If your dog was docked either in the UK or in a foreign country before 6 April 2007 (28 March for shows in Wales) then it may compete at all Royal Kennel Club licensed events.

### Dogs which were docked on or after 6 April 2007 (28 March for shows held in Wales)

If your dog was docked on or after 6 April 2007 (28 March for shows held in Wales and

irrespective of where it was docked) it will not, under the law, be permitted to be shown at any show in England or Wales where the public are admitted on payment of a fee.

However, if your dog was legally docked either in the UK or in another country on or after 28 March/6 April 2007, you will be permitted to compete with it at:

- (a) all shows held in Scotland
- (b) all shows held in Northern Ireland
- (c) those shows held in England and Wales where the public do not pay to be admitted.

### Shows where the public are admitted on payment of a fee

All shows which charge the public for admission must state this on the show schedule and entry form - but you should

check carefully whether or not your dog is eligible before entering.

### Permission to show

The owner of any dog, from any country, which was docked on or after 6th April 2007 (28th March 2007 for shows in Wales) must apply to the Royal Kennel Club for permission to show before competing. Applications must be put in writing to

Royal Kennel Club,  
10 Clarges Street,  
London,  
W1J 8AB, UK

### Cropping

No dog with cropped ears is eligible to compete at any Royal Kennel Club licensed event.



## A guide to help you complete the authority to compete (ATC) form

The owner who wishes to apply for an authority to compete number (ATC) should complete this form. It should be completed and sent to the Royal Kennel Club (see section 5). Alternatively, the quickest, most effective way to complete this application is to do it online at [royalkennelclub.com/atc](http://royalkennelclub.com/atc)

### 1 Applicant and additional owners

All registered owners of the dog should include their name on this application and all owners will be recorded for any publications and documents relating to the dog. The applicant is the person who is applying for the registration either as the sole owner or in partnership with additional owners. The address stipulated on this application should be the address where the dog resides and as printed on the pedigree certificate issued by the overseas kennel club. As such, any documentation will be sent directly to this address.

In the case of joint ownership, you, as the applicant of this application will act as the point of contact in regard to matters pertaining to the Royal Kennel Club. Please note, in the case of joint ownership, any other joint owners of the dog must include their title, first name/initials, surname and unique email address in the additional owner section. The declaration must be signed by all registered owners of the dog.

#### Declaration

The declaration must be signed by **all** applicant(s) in order for an authority to compete form to be accepted.

### 2 Dog details

Please complete all sections in order for an authority to compete number to be authorised and issued to you.

The dog must be registered with a kennel club with which the Royal Kennel Club has a reciprocal agreement, or which has full membership, associate membership or contract partnership of the F.C.I.

All applications must be submitted with a Three Generation Pedigree for the dog, issued by the Royal Kennel Club with which the dog is

registered. The ownership on the pedigree should be the same as that of the applicant as stated on this form.

No dogs with cropped ears are eligible to compete at any Royal Kennel Club licensed event.

If your dog is registered with the Irish Kennel Club (IKC), Guernsey Kennel Club (GKC) or Kennel Club of Jersey (KCJ), you have the option to apply for an authority to compete number using this application, or to import your dog for competition by completing a Form 4 application for the registration of an imported dog.

### 3 Breeder(s) name and address

The breeder is the person who bred the dog/bitch.

### 4 Fee

The ATC application fee is £34.00.

### 5 How to pay

Once you have completed this form, please send it together with the appropriate fee and copies of any relevant documentation to the address given overleaf.

#### Notes:

- i. An ATC number must be obtained before an application can be made for entry to a show in the UK. This number is required on the show entry form.
- ii. Dogs now registered overseas which were originally registered with the Royal Kennel Club, do not require an ATC number since the information needed is already available. Owners of these dogs should declare the original Royal Kennel Club number where the ATC number should be placed on all entry forms.
- iii. For registration purposes, the overseas champion title of the home country will be the only one recorded, along with any recognised Irish Kennel Club titles. Any other overseas titles will only be considered, space permitting, where a comparable title exists in the UK and where the overseas country test is considered to be of a similar standard to that existing in the UK. Such titles will only be added if the relevant sub-committee makes a recommendation of acceptance.
- iv. On acceptance, the owner of a dog will receive an ATC number, which must be quoted on all entry forms and on all correspondence.
- v. Prior to exhibition, permission must be sought from the Royal Kennel Club to exhibit any dog that has undergone an operation to alter its natural conformation.
- vi. Dogs which have been spayed or castrated are permitted to be exhibited at Royal Kennel Club licensed events. However, the owner of the dog must inform the Royal Kennel Club, prior to exhibition, of the date of the operation, the name of the veterinary surgeon and the practice where the operation was carried out.
- vii. Prior to exhibition, permission must be sought from the Royal Kennel Club to exhibit any dog, from any country, which has had its tail docked on or after 6th April 2007 (28th March 2007 for shows in Wales). The term 'docked' includes dogs which have their tails shortened for medical reasons after the relevant dates.
- viii. When travelling to the UK, overseas exhibitors should bear in mind that their dog may be viewed by customs as imported 'goods' and any value that you put on the dog may be subject to import duty. We appreciate that all dogs have an emotional value but the majority of adult dogs do not have a monetary value and your form should reflect this.
- ix. The data and health screening results connected to your dog will be published and used for registration and publication in relevant Royal Kennel Club documentation as well as included in the Health Test Results Finder and Mate Select calculations. The data may also be used for research (statistical purposes) and shared with trusted and reputable partners for the sole purpose of undertaking research to improve dog health and welfare. For more information about the Pet Travel Scheme contact DEFRA:  
  
**Pet Travel Scheme Helpline**  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Nobel House,  
17 Smith Square,  
London SW1P 3JR  
  
Telephone: +44 (0)370 241 1710  
Email: [defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk)
- x. The full Royal Kennel Club rules and regulations are contained in the Royal Kennel Club Year Book.
- xi. Check breed-specific information on any breeding restrictions at [royalkennelclub.com/breeds-a-to-z](http://royalkennelclub.com/breeds-a-to-z)
- xii. To view details on the Royal Kennel Club's privacy policy please visit [royalkennelclub.com](http://royalkennelclub.com)

