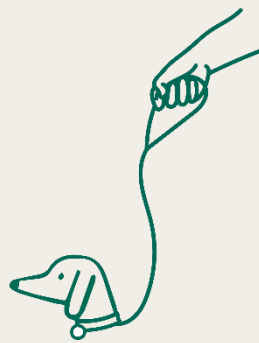


# Young Royal Kennel Club



YRKC AV STAKES



RULES 2026 (CRUFTS 2027)



# YRKC AV STAKES

## YRKC AV STAKES RULES - CHANGE LOG

1. Changes Dated 27/03/2026 – (v1.0 to v1.1).
  - i. Changed all YKC logos to YRKC.
  - ii. Changed all mention of YKC to YRKC.
  - iii. Changed all mention of Kennel Club to Royal Kennel Club.
  - iv. Added a new section (E) to the document to outline Crufts health testing requirement for RFG breeds.



# YRKC AV STAKES

## A: HANDLERS

1. The following seven classes will be open for members to compete in:

AV Gundog	AV Terrier	AV Hound	AV Utility	AV Toy	AV Working	AV Pastoral
• 06-24 Years	• 06-24 Years	• 06-24 Years	• 06-24 Years	• 06-24 Years	• 06-24 Years	• 06-24 Years

2. Only current YRKC members may compete YRKC Classes.
3. No substitute handlers are permitted
  - i. The dog must be handled by the same person who entered the qualifier.
  - ii. If a member is competing with two or more separate dogs in the same competition, another YRKC member may hold the dog, but may not show the dog other than to complete group exercises that would be impossible with one handler.

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## B: DOGS

1. Standard Royal Kennel Club rules regarding which dogs may enter this stakes breed class apply.
2. Bitches in season will not be allowed to compete in any YRKC stakes competition.
3. All pedigree dogs are eligible to take part provided the dog is registered on the Royal Kennel Club Breed Register.
4. Docked dogs are not eligible to compete in YRKC Classes.
5. The dog must be registered;
  - i. Solely or jointly in the member's name or
    - a. In the name of a member of the family (i.e. a group of people related by blood or marriage)
      - (1) Under these circumstances the dog must be resident at the YRKC member's address
6. In certain cases, members may be permitted, through permission from the YRKC Office, to show a dog that is not registered in their name, the family name or registered at their address and must write into the YRKC office, stating their reasons, for permission to show.
  - i. This must be approved by the YRKC Office before entering ANY qualifier and not after the member has qualified at a show.
  - ii. Permission to show will be for the competing year of the request. Separate permission must be gained for subsequent year.



## C ■ YRKC STAKES QUALIFIERS

1. **By entering a YRKC qualifier, the YRKC member and anyone representing them (parent/guardian etc) agree to abide by the YRKC's Code of Conduct**
2. The qualification period for **Crufts 2027** is: **01-Nov-2025 till 31-Oct-2026**
3. Unless otherwise specified in this document, YRKC AV Stakes classes will be subject to all in-force Royal Kennel Club regulations for breed competitions. Including, but not limited to:
  - i. (F) Show Regulations
  - ii. (O) Regulations for The Young Royal Kennel Club
4. When entering a YRKC stakes class, you must only enter the stakes class your dog is eligible for
  - i. For example, a bloodhound is a member of the hound group and is therefore only eligible to enter "YRKC AV Hound Stakes"
5. YRKC Stakes classes will be judged in line with normal breed judging by comparing the exhibit to the breed standard.
  - i. The winner will be the dog who the judge deems closest to its respective breed standard.
6. Prize cards and rosettes will be awarded as part of the competition.
7. Members may enter YRKC stakes classes with a dog they have already qualified.
  - i. Members may NOT enter any YRKC Stakes classes with a dog already qualified by another YRKC member this qualification period.
8. YRKC AV Stakes qualifiers are listed on the YRKC website
  - i. Only qualifiers listed on the YRKC website will be eligible for qualification, please ensure that you are entering a valid YRKC qualifier.
9. YRKC members entering an AV Stakes Competition must, at the point of entry, also enter their Name and YRKC membership number.
10. Unlike a standard breed class, YRKC AV Stakes exhibits must be handled by the YRKC member as recorded at the point of entry.
  - i. No Swapping of dogs or handlers is permitted after the close of entries.
  - ii. If a YRKC member has entered more than one dog the same YRKC Stakes class, that YRKC member must source additional YRKC member(s) in order to hold their additional dog(s) (1 handler per dog).
    - a. Any pattern work must be completed by the YRKC member who is listed on the entry
    - b. Any group exercises may be completed by the additional YRKC member e.g.
      - (1) Entering the ring
      - (2) Leaving the ring
      - (3) Group lap of the ring as directed by the judge
      - (4) Stacking/standing the dog during a line up

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## D ■ YRKC STAKES - WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE FINAL?

1. **First & Second place** at any YRKC AV Stakes qualifier during this season will guarantee a space in the final
2. The YRKC reserves the right to amend this qualification method if we are vastly oversubscribed for the final at Crufts **OR** if not enough spaces were filled.
  - i. The YRKC will only amend qualification criteria in exceptional circumstances.
3. Once qualified, the handler and dog combination is locked in for this year's qualifying season.
  - i. The qualified dog may only be handled at Crufts by the same handler that it qualified with.
4. The YRKC will invite all those who have qualified to enter Crufts via email before Christmas.



## **E** ■ NEW HEALTH ENTRY CRITERIA FOR BULLDOGS, FRENCH BULLDOGS AND PUGS AT CRUFTS

1. All Bulldogs, French Bulldogs and Pugs exceeding 14 calendar months on the first day of Crufts must have a valid Respiratory Function Grading (RFG) Scheme assessment to attend. This requirement is mandatory for entry into the show, not just individual classes.
2. **VALID RFG SCHEME ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS**
  - i. To gain entry, all eligible Bulldogs, French Bulldogs and Pugs must attach a valid RFG Scheme certificate dated within the last 24 months of the first day of the show to their entry.
  - ii. Dogs assessed as Grade 2 or 3 will be excluded and not allowed to enter or attend the show.
3. **CERTIFICATE UPLOAD AND VALIDATION**
  - i. The dog's RFG scheme certificate must be uploaded as part of your entry, including the expiry date and grade. The Royal Kennel Club will validate and approve the certificate.
4. **EXEMPTIONS AND AGE REQUIREMENTS**
  - i. Bulldogs, French Bulldogs and Pugs not exceeding 14 calendar months on the first day of the show are exempt from needing an RFG Scheme assessment, and a certificate is not required.
  - ii. Bulldogs, French Bulldogs and Pugs aged 7 years or older on the first day of the show do not need a valid RFG Scheme assessment; however, they must upload the last certificate awarded to the dog
    - a. The corresponding certificate must be uploaded prior to entry, but it does not need to be dated within the last 24 months.
    - b. The last certificate awarded must have the dog assessed as either Grade 0 or Grade 1.
5. **OVERSEAS ASSESSMENTS**
  - i. International RFG Scheme assessments issued by licensed organisations, and carried out by approved assessors, will be accepted. Overseas exhibitors must upload a valid certificate prior to entry, and ensure certificates meet the same standards as domestic entries.
6. **CROSSBREED DOG BREED DETERMINATION**  
*(including for uniformity – Crossbreed dogs not eligible for YRKC Stakes classes)*
  - i. A crossbreed that has characteristics of either a Bulldog, French Bulldog or Pug will be asked to prove that there are none of the aforementioned breeds in the dog's breeding going back 5 generations.
  - ii. A crossbreed that has unknown lineage will be deemed as one of the designated breeds (Bulldog, French Bulldog or Pug) if it has characteristics that are associated with those breeds respectively.
  - iii. Any Crossbreed that is deemed to be one of the designated breeds (Bulldog, French Bulldog or Pug) is subject to the same health testing restrictions as outlined in E1 through E5 in this document.
  - iv. If there is any doubt whether a dog should be deemed as one of the designated breeds (Bulldog, French Bulldog or Pug) AND that dog has been entered into Crufts without submitting a valid RFG scheme certificate, the judge of the competition will adjudicate.
    - a. The judge may ask for a second opinion from the YRKC show organisers.
    - b. If it is deemed that the dog is one of the designated breeds, that dog shall be asked to leave the show immediately.
7. **More Information**
  - i. For information on where the scheme is available, expected costs and more information on why the RKC is implementing these rules: please visit <https://www.royalkennelclub.com/rfgscheme>



## F: HOW MANY DOGS CAN I QUALIFY FOR YRKC STAKES?

1. There is no limit on how many dogs a single YRKC member may qualify.
  - i. If a YRKC member manages to qualify multiple dogs in the same AV Stakes class at Crufts, that YRKC member is responsible for recruiting additional YRKC members to assist with holding their dog during the class.

## G: YRKC STAKES AT CRUFTS – GROUP FINALS

1. **By entering a YRKC class, the YRKC member and anyone representing them (parent/guardian etc) agree to abide by the YRKC’s Code of Conduct.**
2. The finals for the each of the AV Group Stakes are held at Crufts in the YRKC ring.
3. Each AV group will be held on the appropriate day at Crufts (i.e. AV Gundog stakes will be held on Gundog Day at Crufts)
4. The winner of each of the AV classes at Crufts will count towards qualification for Crufts 2027.
  - i. This is providing that the eligible YRKC members are still YRKC members at that Crufts
    - a. i.e. still paying members and have not turned 25.

## H: CLOTHING @ CRUFTS

1. Handlers in YRKC Stakes should wear a similar style of suit to what would be typically seen in the breed ring. These suits should be smart while allowing the handler to perform the full range of motions required.
2. Boys should be in either a trousered or kilted suit with jacket.
3. Girls should be in either a trousered or skirted suit.
4. Should the handler either wear a kilt or skirt, these should be of appropriate length to allow the handler to perform the full range of motion required to show their dog without accidentally exposing themselves (take extra consideration for how your clothes will sit while stacking and presenting your dog).
5. Handlers should pick outfits that do not distract the judge from their view of the dog (e.g. don't pick trousers that are the same colour as your dog as then the judge cannot clearly see the topline of the dog etc.).
6. Handlers should wear smart comfortable shoes that allow them to move at the correct pace for their dog over artificial grass. High heels and trainers are not appropriate.

## YRKC STAKES GROUP FINALS – PRIZEGIVING

1. The following awards will be presented in the YRKC ring for the YRKC Handling Finals:

AV Gundog	AV Terrier	AV Hound	AV Utility	AV Toy	AV Working	AV Pastoral
• 1 <sup>st</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	• 1 <sup>st</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	• 1 <sup>st</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	• 1 <sup>st</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	• 1 <sup>st</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	• 1 <sup>st</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	• 1 <sup>st</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>



# YRKC AV STAKES



## J: YRKC STAKES AT CRUFTS – GRAND FINAL

1. The winners of each of the YRKC AV Group Stakes finals at Crufts will be invited to participate in the YRKC Stakes Grand Final held in the Main Arena at Crufts on Sunday, just before “Best in Show”.
2. Dogs will enter the main arena in the order that the class was judged i.e.:
  - i. The first dog to enter the arena will be the AV Stakes class that was scheduled first on Thursday
  - ii. ...
  - iii. The last dog to enter the arena will be the AV Stakes class that was scheduled last on Sunday

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## K: YRKC STAKES GRAND FINAL – PRIZEGIVING

1. The following two awards will be presented in the Main Arena for the YRKC Stakes Grand Final:

<b>YRKC Stakes</b>	<b>YRKC Stakes</b>
<b>Overall Winner</b>	<b>Reserve</b>

2. All YRKC competitors in the YRKC Stakes Grand Final will receive a YRKC Stakes Grand Finalist Rosette.