



AKC BREEDER OF MERIT REQUIREMENTS

The following must be met in order to be accepted into the program:



- Has a history of at least 5 years involvement with AKC events.

- Earned AKC Conformation, Performance or Companion* event titles on a minimum of 4 dogs from AKC litters they bred/co-bred.
- Member of an AKC club.
- Certifies that applicable health screens are performed on your breeding stock as recommended by the Parent Club.
- Demonstrates a commitment to ensuring 100% of the puppies produced are AKC registered.

*CGC (Canine Good Citizen or Community Canine) title does not meet the event requirements.



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AKC BREEDER OF MERIT

THE HEART OF THE AKC

MISSION

In 2010, the American Kennel Club® established the AKC Breeder of Merit Program. It marked the first time since the AKC® was established over 125 years ago that a special designation of breeders was to be recognized. The purpose of the AKC Breeder of Merit Program is to identify and honor those breeders who consistently meet the high standards of the AKC and who actively promote the sport of purebred dogs.

QUALIFICATIONS

AKC Breeder of Merit Participants demonstrate a commitment to the AKC community, dedication to improving their breed, along with breeding dogs who are title winners.

Specific requirements include:

- Must have history of at least 5 years involvement with AKC events.
- Must have earned AKC Conformation, Performance or Companion event titles* on a minimum of 4 dogs from AKC litters they bred/co-bred.
- Must be a member of an AKC licensed club.
- Must certify that applicable health screens are performed on their breeding stock as recommended by the Parent Club. Be prepared to supply proof upon request.
- Currently in good standing with the AKC.
- Must demonstrate a commitment to ensure 100% of the puppies produced are AKC registered.

* Applied for titles, i.e. CGC, Barn Hunt, Working titles, etc., do not meet event requirements



AMERICAN
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BENEFITS

Upon acceptance into the AKC Breeder of Merit Program you will receive:

- An AKC Breeder of Merit certificate and lapel pin.
- Your title of AKC Breeder of Merit Participant proudly showcased on all AKC registration certificates and dog applications, along with a distinctive gold border and AKC Breeder of Merit insignia.
- Name listed as a Breeder of Merit on the AKC website (optional).
- Free litter listings on AKC Marketplace.
- Breed specific banners for your personal website.
- A \$20 monthly credit toward AKC online reports.
- Special offers as announced.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Online: www.akc.org/breederofmerit

Email: breederofmerit@akc.org

Phone: 919-233-9767



8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100, Raleigh, NC 27617-3390 | 919-233-9767 | www.akc.org

AKC Special Services Department
 PO Box 900059 • Raleigh, NC 27675-9059
 Fax: 919-816-3770 • breederofmerit@akc.org



Customer # (Internal Use Only):

AKC[®] BREEDER OF MERIT PROGRAM APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION (REQUIRED*)

(Previous Names)

Have you been the subject of an AKC inquiry in the past 5 years? Yes No If Yes, explain _____

If accepted, would you like your name published on the AKC website as an AKC Breeder of Merit participant?* Yes No

BREEDING EXPERIENCE

In what year did you breed/co-breed your first litter? _____

Do you currently perform health screens on your breeding stock as recommended by your Parent Club? Yes No

List all health screens you currently perform on your breeding stock, by breed...

Breed	Tests Performed	Parent Club Recommended?	
		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

COMPETITION & CLUB EXPERIENCE

In what year did you begin exhibiting dogs in AKC events? _____

List AKC licensed clubs of which you are currently a member.*

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AKC[®] BREEDER OF MERIT PROGRAM APPLICATION

TITLED DOGS

List AKC name and number of titled* AKC dogs you have bred or co-bred:

1.

3.

2.

4.

*Required titles may be in Conformation, Companion, and Performance Events. CGC does not qualify

SIGNING/CERTIFYING/SUBMITTING THE FORM

Read the certifying language and the Arbitration Clause at the bottom of the page. If agreed:

To submit this form to the AKC via email –

- Click the box that says "Click here to type your full name and submit via email." Once you have clicked this box, you will see a section to Enter Your Name.
- Please enter your full name in this field. This will be considered your electronic signature and will verify that you have read and agree to all the terms for the AKC Breeder of Merit Program.
- Verify that all required fields have been completed and all information is correct.
- Save a copy for your records.
- Click the "Click here to email to AKC." This will pop up an email box with the AKC Breeder of Merit email address.
- Click "Send."

To mail or fax this form to the AKC –

- Click the box that says "Click here to sign the form and submit via postal service."
- Save a copy for your records.
- Click the "Click here to print and send to AKC."
- Once printed, sign the form and submit it to:

AKC Special Services Department, PO Box 900059, Raleigh, NC 27675-9059 or fax to (919) 816-3770.

I hereby apply to participate in the Breeder of Merit Program. I certify by my signature that I have read, understand, and will comply with the requirements of the Breeder of Merit Program, including ensuring all dogs from AKC registered litters produced by me will be registered with AKC. I certify by my signature that all the information appearing on this application is correct, that I am in good standing with the American Kennel Club (AKC), and that I agree to abide by all AKC rules and regulations. I acknowledge that upon request I will be required to provide the AKC copies of recommended parent club health screenings applicable to the breed(s) for litters produced while enrolled in the Breeder of Merit Program. I agree to maintain membership in an AKC licensed club while participating in the Breeder of Merit Program. By signing, I agree to the arbitration clause at the bottom of this page.

 [CLICK HERE TO TYPE IN YOUR FULL NAME AND SUBMIT VIA EMAIL.](#)

 [CLICK HERE TO SIGN THE FORM AND SUBMIT VIA POSTAL SERVICE.](#)

Each application for the Breeder of Merit Program will be considered on its merit. Applications will be verified through AKC records. The granting of Breeder of Merit status is at the discretion of the AKC.

INVESTIGATIONS AND INSPECTIONS

The AKC is the only purebred registry in the United States with an ongoing routine kennel inspection program. The AKC has a dedicated team of field inspectors who visit kennels to help breeders while ensuring the proper care and conditions of AKC-registered dogs and verify that breeders are maintaining accurate records for their dogs. Since 2000, AKC field inspectors have conducted over 45,000 inspections nationwide.

- Routine AKC field inspections involve several steps. Field agents begin every visit with a tour of the overall facility checking that the dogs as well as the condition of their environment are in good order. Field agents also check the dogs for proper identification, microchip, tattoo or collar tag.
- After a thorough look at the dogs the field agent will review the breeder's records, often advising the breeder with options on how to maintain hard copies in addition to using the convenient AKC online record system. Breeders are expected to maintain records for at least five years.
- AKC randomly selects breeders for inspection yearly. In addition, to the random selection AKC inspects breeders based on written, signed and substantiated complaints.
- Through kennel visits, inspectors seek to work with breeders to help correct any deficiencies, as well as help new breeders develop effective practices and procedures.
- If an inspector finds minor deficiencies, the issues are noted and discussed with the breeder in an effort to help the breeder while at the same time meeting AKC's requirements in the future. While the AKC does not have penal or regulatory authority, breeders who have major kennel deficiencies may lose AKC privileges (ability to register dogs or compete in events). In some cases, fines will be imposed, AKC privileges may be suspended and appropriate law enforcement authorities contacted.
- The standard penalty for anyone convicted of animal cruelty involving dogs is a 10-year suspension and a \$2,000 fine.
- Contact the Compliance dept: AKC Investigations and Inspections, 8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100. Raleigh, NC 27617-3390. Phone: (919) 816-3629, Fax: (919) 816-4246