



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

Press Release

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AKC SETS CRITERIA FOR RARE BREEDS TO COMPETE IN COMPANION EVENTS

--18 FSS Breeds Eligible for Competition as of January 1--

New York, NY – The American Kennel Club announced that Foundation Stock Service (FSS) breeds meeting certain criteria are eligible to compete in AKC all-breed Companion Events including Obedience, Agility and Tracking, effective January 1, 2004. Inclusion in Performance events will be considered on a case-by-case basis after written requests from individual breed Parent clubs are made to the AKC.

FSS is a service provided by the AKC to allow these purebred breeds to continue to develop while allowing them the security of a reliable and reputable avenue to maintain their records. This record keeping service allows rare breed fanciers to ensure the integrity of their pedigrees and ownership records, and ultimately, become fully recognized by the AKC. Currently, 48 unique purebreds are included in FSS.

“AKC Companion Events are among the most popular of the AKC sports for registered purebred dogs. They offer a unique bonding experience between owner and dog,” said Patricia Krause, AVP of Companion Events. “We are pleased to welcome these dogs into competition as they bring diversity to the sport and enable the public the chance to become educated about lesser-known breeds.”

In order to be eligible for competition in Companion Events, the FSS breed must meet the following minimum requirements as set by the AKC Board of Directors: a minimum of 150 dogs with three generation pedigrees recorded in FSS; a national breed club with members in at least 20 states; and a breed standard that meets AKC criteria.

The 18 breeds currently eligible are:

- ◆ (FSS) Black and Tan Coonhound
- ◆ American English Coonhound
- ◆ Bluetick Coonhound
- ◆ Cesky Terrier
- ◆ Chinook
- ◆ Coton de Tulear

FSS Eligible Breeds/2

- ◆ Dogue de Bordeaux
- ◆ Finnish Lapphund
- ◆ Irish Red and White Setter
- ◆ Norwegian Buhund
- ◆ Norwegian Lundehund
- ◆ Perro de Presa Canario
- ◆ Peruvian Inca Orchid
- ◆ Pyrenean Shepherd
- ◆ Sloughi
- ◆ Swedish Vallhund
- ◆ Tibetan Mastiff
- ◆ Treeing Walker Coonhound

In addition, the Cesky Terrier was approved for competition in Earthdog Tests, also effective January 1, 2004. The breed was developed in Czechoslovakia to hunt small vermin and to go to ground.

Visit <http://www.akc.org/registration/fss/index.cfm> to learn more about the AKC's Foundation Stock Service.

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The American Kennel Club (AKC), founded in 1884, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of purebred dogs. The AKC maintains the largest registry of purebred dogs in the world, oversees the sport of purebred dogs in the United States, and along with its 4,500 licensed and member clubs, educates the general public about responsible dog ownership. More than 15,000 competitions for purebred dogs are held under AKC rules each year including conformation, agility, obedience, tracking, herding, lure coursing, hunt tests, and field and earthdog trials. Affiliate AKC organizations include the AKC Canine Health Foundation, AKC Companion Animal Recovery and the AKC Museum of the Dog. For more information, visit www.akc.org.