



INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION RULES FOR THE 2026 AKC TRICK DOG COMPETITION For Handlers and Dogs Outside of the United States

The American Kennel Club is pleased to announce the addition of the International class to the Virtual AKC Trick Dog Competition.

Below are the rules for the 2026 International competition.

The International class is for dogs and handlers outside of the United States (excluding U.S. territories and U.S. military bases). The rules for this first International class are different than the U.S. competition rules.

How the International class competition works: Submit a video of your dog's AKC Trick Dog routine or individual tricks. The video must be submitted via YouTube.

- THE INTERNATIONAL CLASS IS OPEN ONLY TO HANDLERS ages 21 and over.
- Dogs in the International class are required to have an AKC, PAL, or AKC Canine Partners number.
- There is no fee to enter.
- You may submit a routine (with a story) or your dog performing individual tricks.
 - You may use props and tricks at various levels of difficulty. Keep in mind that performances with props and higher-level tricks are likely to score better.
 - An audience may be present, but it is not required.
- Your video 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.
- You may have more than one handler in the routine, and/or more than one dog may be in the routine.
- 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, or a video of a past trick dog performance.
- 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.)
- All dogs who qualify in the International class will receive an attractive, frameable, digital certificate, and a digital rosette including the Trick Dog logo. International dogs will be listed on the AKC Trick Dog web page as the inaugural International class of the AKC Trick Dog competition. There will be one International winner and four semi-finalists.
- You may submit up to two videos (per dog) to the competition.

Entry form: The entry form must include:

1. The Entry form information
2. List of Tricks
3. Photo release

- **The application including the video link must be received by 5:00 p.m. EST on Thursday, October 1, 2026. Submit the entry to: trickdog@akc.org**

ENTRIES OPEN: Saturday, August 1, 2026

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: Thursday, October 1, 2026

Entry forms are at: <https://www.akc.org/sports/trick-dog/>