

Health Promotion and Infection Control Recommendations

Applying to Dog Shows

The Show Site:

Secure perimeter; free from roving wild life.

Grass, if present, cut short. If in a location and during a season where ticks are likely to be present, there should be a barrier of mulch or gravel between grass edges and any surrounding shrubbery.

Potable water available (may be from vendor).

Adequate accessible parking including parking for disabled exhibitors; shuttles if needed, for remote parking.

Indoor Show Sites:

Adequate indoor ventilation (air exchanges per hour) with, for those facilities having “closed” HVAC systems, adequate entrainment of fresh air to avoid the continuous recirculation of stale indoor air.

Floor clean and preferably washed daily with a sodium hypochlorite-containing cleaner. Swept as needed during the show day by custodial staff with prompt emptying of waste containers.

Grooming setups at least 20 feet from the rings and allowing adequate space for ringside seating as well as safe access and egress of dogs and exhibitors to and from the show rings.

Outdoor Show Site:

Adequate tenting to provide shelter for judges and stewards. Adequate tenting of supplied grooming areas or enough space for exhibitor-provided shelters without undue crowding.

At potentially windy sites, secure tie-down of tents, with the tenting crew on call for unexpectedly gusty conditions.

Tenting supplied by the Show Committee to have an acceptable fire rating. Fire extinguishers may be required in each tent by the local fire marshal.

Canine Relief Areas:

Available open areas should be large enough so that dogs can avoid direct contact with feces and urine. Self-cleaning shows should have appropriate signs posted and readily available cleanup supplies for the exhibitors. For exhibitors who fail to clean up after their dogs, a service group, such as the Scouts or 4-H, or a subcommittee of the Show Committee should be assigned this task. A club member should periodically monitor the show grounds and ensure that they are kept clean.

Communal “exercise pens” should be enough in number and of appropriate size to accommodate the number of dogs expected to be using them. (Refer to the AKC Show Trial Manual for the minimum size and required number of exercise pens.)

Straw or shavings should be provided to absorb the waste. Waste should be promptly removed by the exhibitors whose dogs utilize these facilities; and the absorbent material removed and replaced at intervals frequent enough to keep these exercise pens clean. If located on a hard surface, stray absorbent material around the pens should be removed and the surrounding surface cleaned by janitorial staff as needed to maintain cleanliness of the area.

Human Relief Areas:

Permanent toilet facilities appropriate for the number of exhibitors and cleaned frequently with supplies provided as needed by janitorial staff.

Portable toilets adequate in number, serviced regularly, and accompanied by portable hand-washing facilities, also supplied and maintained regularly.

Grooming Areas:

Not overly crowded with trip-free access to individual spaces. Electrical cords taped down in main aisles if indoors.

No stacking of crates except for those dogs who regularly travel together with the same handler or exhibitor or who are regularly shown together, as in dogs of the same breed. The goal is to minimize unnecessary close contact between dogs attending the show.

If indoors, regular cleaning by janitorial staff and frequent emptying of trash, especially trash containers with feces.

Dog Bathing Facilities:

Adequate drainage so that used bath water does not accumulate. No shared towels.

Show Ring:

Disposable sodium hypochlorite wipes for tables and ramps, which should be wiped between breeds or, for large-entry breeds, after every 12 dogs.

Disposable hand wipes for judges, used with the same frequency as above. Waterless hand cleaners and paper towels are also acceptable.

Exhibitors should be asked to "show the bite."

No dogs crated adjacent to the rings except for those whose breed is currently being exhibited in the ring.

Depending on the show site, not all of these considerations will be possible. However, the Show Committee should review the show site with these recommendations in mind, and, implement as many as possible, within the limitations of the site.

Approved by AKC Delegate Canine Health Committee on 09/24/2018