



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB

**Marliese Moody**  
Manager  
Judging Operations

TO: Hound Group Judges

FROM: Judging Operations

DATE: April 7, 2026

RE: Peruvian Inca Orchid Eligible to Compete in The Hound Group January 1, 2027

The Peruvian Inca Orchid will be accepted into the Hound Group, eligible for competition in regular breed classes on January 1, 2027.

Pursuant to Board policy, all judges eligible to judge the Hound Group competition are required to complete the breed standard exam with a passing grade and a submission of a \$35 fee to be approved for the newly recognized breed and maintain group status. Successful completion will result in the Peruvian Inca Orchid added to the list of eligible breeds to judge at shows held after January 1, 2027.

Please visit the AKC Canine College to enroll and take the breed standard exam; all resources are linked within the breed exam. (standard, table and ramp breed list, oral exam chart) To facilitate this process and to assist clubs seeking to assign judges to the breed on panels occurring on or after January 1, 2027, **we ask all Hound Group Judges to complete this requirement no later than May 5, 2026.**

**Please be advised, Hound Group Judges who fail to complete this requirement prior to December 31, 2026, will be required to apply under the traditional process for additional breeds, to be approved for the breed and restore their Group Status. (See *Judging Approval Process effective, November 12, 2025*)**

Additional breed applications submitted for the balance of the Hound Group received before January 1, 2027, will be required to complete the breed standard exam, submit a \$35 fee, and be interviewed. Applicants who fail the interview with the Executive Field Representative will not be approved to judge the applicable breed, and as a result, regardless of the Department's decision on the balance of the group applied, will not be approved to judge the Hound Group.

AKC-approved judges who can demonstrate a significant background in the breed may apply to judge under the Adjunct System. Examples of "significant background" would be:

- Experience in owning, breeding, exhibiting, and/or handling the breed.
- Background in judging multiple events with a significant number of entries.

Individuals wishing to apply using the **Adjunct Method** must apply and submit the adjunct application between **July 1, 2026, and December 31, 2026.** Those who miss the deadline must apply under the current system. Application and information may be found [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact Judging Operations.