

CANINE PARTNERS BEING EXHIBITED IN JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP

The AKC Board approved at the January 2021 Meeting a proposal submitted by the Delegate Junior Sub-Committee and AKC Staff, to allow Canine Partners to be exhibited in Junior Showmanship. This will be an 18 month pilot program. The dog must have an AKC Canine Partner number and meet the ownership eligibility criteria. The Junior will include the breed the dog is being exhibited as on the entry form in the breed designation space. This is the same approach that has been successfully used by the 4-H participants. Eligibility of Canine Partners to be entered in Conformation Junior Showmanship is limited to all-breed shows or events holding all-breed Junior Showmanship. The Judging Operations Department will be providing procedural information to all breed Junior Showmanship Judges.

The implementation of allowing Juniors to handle AKC Canine Partners is consistent with the purpose of the junior showmanship competition to introduce and encourage Juniors to participate in the sport of dogs; and to provide Juniors with a meaningful competition in which they can learn, practice, and improve in all areas of handling skill and sportsmanship. Further, it will allow new young people and their families the opportunity to participate in an AKC Conformation Event, supporting the future of clubs and events. This will present clubs the opportunity to recruit new members and provide mentorship to the Junior and their family.

The effective date is July 1, 2021. The impact of the pilot program will be assessed in 2022.