



How Dog Shows Work

This Thanksgiving, don't forget to leave room for *The National Dog Show Presented by Purina*®.

It all happens on NBC, Thanksgiving Day at Noon (all time zones).



A dog show is basically an elimination contest. It starts with lots of dogs and ends with one named "Best in Show."

But the other competitors don't go home empty-handed. Some dogs get points towards their championship. A good dog can win up to 5 points in one show. It takes a total of 15 to become a registered champion. (You'll know these dogs because they have the initials "Ch." before their names.)

The National Dog Show Presented by Purina is a "conformation" event open to all breeds. This means that dogs are judged on their physical make-up and overall appearance. Judges want to see how well a dog measures up to the standards for its particular breed.

THERE ARE THREE MAJOR LEVELS TO THE COMPETITION:



Best of Breed

In the first round of the judging, dogs compete only against other dogs from their same breed.



Group Winners

After winning "Best of Breed," a dog competes against other winners from within his group. Dogs are divided into seven groups, based on breed. Within each group, judges give out four ribbons. The seven first place winners then advance to the final round.



Best in Show

This is it! The judges select one dog as the "Best in Show!"

