

AKC DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES - EFFECTIVE June 1, 2024

Explanatory Notes

- Articles XII and XIV allow for discipline for “conduct alleged to have been prejudicial to the best interests of purebred dogs, purebred dog events, or the AKC.”
- Discipline in excess of the Aggravated term, or less than the Mitigated term, must be approved by the AKC Board of Directors (“Board”). Discipline imposed for cases not covered by the Guidelines must be approved by the Board.
- Circumstances that could, but would not necessarily result in an act of misconduct being Mitigated would include, but not be limited to:
 1. The lack of any prior offense.
 2. The lack of experience as a participant in events.
 3. The minimal nature of the offense.
 4. Recognition of wrongdoing.
 5. The recommendation of the Events Committee.
 6. Payment of restitution and proof thereof prior to AKC reviewing the matter.
- Circumstances that could, but that would not necessarily result in an act of misconduct being Aggravated would include, but not be limited to:
 1. A record of prior offense(s).
 2. Extensive experience as a participant in events.
 3. The seriousness of the offense.
 4. Refusal to acknowledge wrongdoing prior to formal issuance of Charges.
 5. The recommendation of the Events Committee
 6. The action(s) of the individual resulted in the death of dog(s)
 7. The misconduct is directed towards or with a person under 18 years of age.
 8. Failure to pay restitution prior to AKC reviewing the matter.
- An especially egregious offense will result in a more severe length of suspension and/or fine than suggested in the Guidelines.
- Multiple serious offenses may result in a lifetime suspension of all AKC privileges.
- These Guidelines will be reviewed from time to time.
- Event Suspension is a suspension of event privileges for the individual and applies to dogs registered or co-registered at the time of suspension, or subsequently obtained during the term of suspension, which may not be entered or compete in events during the term of suspension unless they are transferred to another individual.
- Registration Suspension is a suspension of registration privileges, which means AKC will not accord registration of any litter, or individual dog or transfer ownership of a dog solely or in part by the suspended individual. In addition, AKC will not register any litter of dogs if the sire of the litter was owned solely or in part by a person who is suspended on the date the mating occurred.
- Suspension of all privileges would include both event suspension and registration suspension.
- At the discretion of the Management Disciplinary Committee (“MDC”) or the Staff Event Committee (“SEC”), a condition of suspension can include the prohibition of a suspended individual from being allowed on the grounds of an AKC approved event. The factors for MDC or SEC to take into consideration in adding this condition of suspension are 1) the possibility of future harm to an individual(s) and/or animal(s); 2) the nature of the conduct that led to the suspension; and 3) the involvement of the authorities.
- Payment of restitution for damages shall be paid as a condition of any reinstatement of privileges, in addition to any other applicable conditions.
- Complaints against a judge at an event which involve deviation from standard judging procedure and responsibilities are to be reported to the Field Representative in attendance or the applicable AKC department and handled internally by the AKC.
- Conduct addressed by SEC involving an individual who is an AKC approved judge, may lead to review by the applicable AKC department to determine if further action is warranted specific to the person’s judging privileges.
- When discipline guidelines become less punitive, the new penalty (suspension period and conditions and fine, if applicable) will be applied to persons currently under suspension for that offense.
- Month is abbreviated as “mo”. A month suspension is defined as being thirty (30) days.
- For violations denoted with an asterisk (*), reinstatement is contingent on passing an AKC kennel inspection, which will be scheduled only after the associated fine has been paid.
- The classification of an offense(s) within these Guidelines will be made by either the MDC or SEC. SEC will base the classification on the wording in the complaint and may determine that multiple offenses apply. The penalties for multiple offenses will run concurrently unless MDC or SEC determine that based on the severity of the offenses or record of prior offenses consecutive penalties are warranted.

IN THOSE CASES WHERE AN EVENT OR REGISTRATION SUSPENSION IS CALLED FOR, THE AKC MANAGEMENT DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE MAY RECOMMEND THE SUSPENSION OF ALL PRIVILEGES, WHEN WARRANTED BY THE SEVERITY OF THE CASE.

SUSPENSION OF ALL AKC PRIVILEGES

<u>OFFENSES</u>	<u>MITIGATED</u>	<u>STANDARD</u>	<u>AGGRAVATED</u>
I. Inappropriate Treatment of Animals			
a. Cruelty in connection with an event	5 yr/\$1,000	10 yr/\$2,000	Up to life/up to \$10,000
b. Physical Abuse at or in connection with an event by individual	6 mo/\$500	1 yr/\$,1000	Up to life/up to \$10,000
c. Physical Abuse at or in connection with an event by club	Rep/\$300	Loss of event/\$500	Loss of event/\$1,000
d. Neglect at or in connection with an event by individual	3 mo/\$500	6 mo/\$1,000	Up to life/up to \$10,000
e. Neglect at or in connection with an event by club	Rep/\$100	Loss of next event/\$300	Loss of next event/\$500
f. Improper Treatment in connection with an event	Rep/\$100	3 mo/\$300	Up to life/up to \$10,000
g. Judicial or administrative determination of inappropriate treatment*	5 yr/\$1,000	10 yr/\$2,000	Up to life/up to \$10,000
h. Unacceptable conditions, dogs and/or facility*	3 mo/\$500	1 yr/\$1,000	Up to life/up to \$10,000
i. Whelping dogs at event site	Rep/\$200	3 mo/\$500	Up to life/up to \$10,000

<u>OFFENSES</u>	<u>MITIGATED</u>	<u>STANDARD</u>	<u>AGGRAVATED</u>
II. Registration Violations			
a. Submission of a false application to register or transfer (not signature forgeries), which affect the Stud Book *	3 yr/\$500	5 yr/\$1,000	Up to life/up to \$5,000
b. Selling or buying AKC registration papers*	5 yr/\$500	10 yr/\$1,000	Up to life/up to \$5,000
c. Refusing to produce dogs or records*	6 mo/\$500	5 yr/\$1,000 ¹	Up to life/up to \$3,000 ¹
d. Non-compliance with AKC's Rules and Regulations on Record Keeping and Identification	Rep/up to \$50	6 mo/up to \$500	Up to Life/up to \$3,000 ²
e. Submission of an AKC litter application which the individual should have known contained a false certification as to the sire and/or dam of the litter (DNA exclusion)*	<u>2 Exclusions/5yrs</u> 6 mo/\$500	<u>3 Exclusions/5yrs</u> 1 yr/\$1,000	<u>4 Exclusions/5yrs</u> Up to 5 yrs/up to \$2,000

¹If reinstated, must start with a new colony, or in lieu thereof, bring back dogs from the old colony for which a DNA profile is recorded with the AKC and is positively identified via microchip or tattoo.

²The actual fine assessed shall be sufficient to cover all reinstatement costs, but in no instance shall it exceed the maximum amount indicated.

<u>OFFENSES</u>	<u>MITIGATED</u>	<u>STANDARD</u>	<u>AGGRAVATED</u>
III. Misconduct Against a Club			
a. Judicial or administrative determination of, or a signed admission or, unauthorized use of club funds.	1 yr/\$1,000	5 yr/\$2,000	Up to 10 yr/up to \$5,000

<u>OFFENSES</u>	<u>MITIGATED</u>	<u>STANDARD</u>	<u>AGGRAVATED</u>
IV. Misconduct Against an Individual			
a. Harassment, physical	3 mo/\$300	2 yr/\$1,000	Up to life/up to \$10,000
b. Harassment, verbal or written	3 mo/\$100	1 yr/\$1,000	Up to 2 yr/up to \$2,000
c. Violation of AKC Personal Conduct Policy ³	5 yr/\$1,000	10 yr/\$2,000	Up to life/up to \$10,000

³ Violations of this offense may result in AKC administratively removing the individual from AKC registrations as a co-owner.

Harassment: Inappropriate comments, conduct and/or contact regarding but not limited to race, color, religion, disability, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or are sexual in nature.

<u>OFFENSES</u>	<u>MITIGATED</u>	<u>STANDARD</u>	<u>AGGRAVATED</u>
V. Violation in regard to official AKC documentation			
a. Creation, falsification, or alteration of an official AKC document	1 yr/\$500	3 yr/\$1,000	Up to life/up to \$5,000

SUSPENSION OF EVENT PRIVILEGES

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VI. Misconduct By or Directed against a Judge

a. Physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature	Rep/\$100	3 mo/\$300	Up to 5 yrs/up to \$1,000
b. Inappropriate, abusive, or foul language directed personally to a judge	2 mo/\$100	6 mo/\$500	Up to 1 yr/up to \$1,000
c. Inappropriate public criticism of a judge, not disruptive, but demonstrating lack of sportsmanship	Rep/\$50	1 mo/\$200	Up to 3 mo/up to \$300
d. Public criticism of a judge that causes a disruption at an event	Rep/\$100	3 mo/\$300	Up to 6 mo/up to \$500
e. Unsportsmanlike conduct during an event including but not limited to:			
1. Refusal or throwing down of ribbon	Rep/\$100	3 mo/\$300	Up to 6 mo/up to \$500
2. Leaving ring without permission	Rep/\$100	3 mo/\$300	Up to 6 mo/up to \$500
3. Refusing to continue to compete	Rep/\$50	3 mo/\$300	Up to 6 mo/up to \$500
4. Failure to follow a judge's instruction	Rep/\$50	1 mo/\$100	Up to 3 mo/up to \$300
f. Attempting to influence a judge	3 mo/\$300	1 yr/\$1,000	Up to life/up to \$5,000
g. Judging improprieties (the judge himself/herself or complicity with a judge)	1 yr/\$500	2 yr/\$1,000	Up to life/up to \$5,000 ⁴

⁴An aggravated penalty may include a suspension from all AKC privileges.

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VII. Disorderly Conduct

a. Physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature	Rep/\$100	3 mo/\$300	Up to 10 yr/up to \$10,000
b. Inappropriate, abusive, or foul language	Rep/\$100	1 mo/\$500	Up to 1 yr/up to \$1,000
c. Personal property damage	Rep/\$100	1 mo/\$500	Up to 1 yr/up to \$1,000
d. Impairing a club's ability to retain site	3 mo/\$100	3 mo/\$500	Up to 1 yr/up to \$1,000
e. Failure to properly control a dog at an event	Rep/\$200	3 mo/\$500	Up to 1 yr/up to \$1,000
f. Disruptive behavior at an event	Rep/\$100	3 mo/\$300	Up to 1 yr/up to \$500
g. Unauthorized removal of property at or in connection with an event	3 mo/\$500	1 yr/\$1,000	Up to life/up to \$10,000
h. Abuse of authority as a club official	1 mo/\$200	3 mo/\$500	Up to 1 yr/up to \$1,000

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VIII. Violation of AKC Rules/Regulation or Club Regulations

a. Showing the wrong dog without voluntary correction	Rep/\$300	1 mo/\$500	Up to 3 mo/up to \$1,000
b. Substitution	2 yr/\$1,000	5 yr/\$3,000	Up to 10 yr/up to \$5,000
c. Benching violations (per dog)	Rep/\$100	Rep/\$250	Rep/Double Fine for each repeated offense
d. Disregard of published club regulations (e.g. parking, ex-pens, crates in aisle, unauthorized concessions, selling puppies, etc.)	Rep/\$100	1 mo/\$500	Up to 3 mo/up to \$1,000
e. Entering/exhibiting altered dog (temporary alteration)	Rep/\$500	6 mo/\$1,000	Up to 1 yr/up to \$2,500
f. Entering exhibiting altered dog (permanent alteration)	1 yr/\$1,000	2 yr/\$2,000	Up to 5 yr/up to \$5,000
g. Willful refusal to return ribbon or prize after award disallowed	Rep/\$100	1 mo/\$200	Up to 1 mo/up to \$500
h. Gun safety violation (by gunner)	Rep/\$200	1 yr/\$500	Up to 2 yr/up to \$1,000
i. Gun safety violation (by club)	Rep/\$100	Loss of next event/\$300	Loss of next event/\$500
j. Providing fraudulent information on an entry to show an ineligible dog	3 mo/\$500	6 mo/\$1,000	Up to 1 yr/up to \$2,000
k. Misuse of a tracking/training device in connection with an event	6 mo/\$500	1 yr/\$1,000	Up to 2 yr/up to \$2,500
l. Entering/Exhibiting dog that the entrant knew or should have known is ineligible to compete in the event	Rep/\$200	1 yr/\$1,000	Up to 5 yr/up to \$5,000
m. Stopping payment on an event entry after the closing date (per event) ⁵	1 mo/\$100	3 mo/\$300	Up to a 1 yr/up to \$1,000

⁵ Reinstatement is contingent on payment of the entry fees and associated fees.

SUSPENSION OF REGISTRATION PRIVILEGES

<u>OFFENSES</u>	<u>MITIGATED</u>	<u>STANDARD</u>	<u>AGGRAVATED</u>
IX. Registration Violations			
a. Submission of a false application to register or transfer (not signature forgeries), which do not affect the Stud Books online or paper	1 yr/\$200	3 yr/\$300	Up to 5 yr/up to \$500
b. Signing AKC applications to register or transfer in blank; failure to properly complete an AKC document to show the name and address of the individual to whom the dog was directly transferred and the date of the transfer*	Rep/\$300	3 mo/\$500	Up to 1 yr/up to \$2,000
c. Failure to complete supplemental transfers (i.e., jumping transfers). Failure to complete proper chain of registration on an AKC registered or registerable dog*	Rep/\$300	3 mo/\$500	Up to 1 yr/up to \$2,000
d. Submission of application containing a false certification as to the signature of one of the owners (this includes making false complaints)	1 mo/\$300	6 mo/\$500	Up to 1 yr/up to \$1,000
e. Submission of an online application without written permission from the co-owner or co-litter owner	Rep/\$100	3 mo/\$500	Up to 1 yr/up to \$1,000
f. Signing AKC documents on behalf of another without filing a properly completed Power of Attorney Form	Rep/\$100	3 mo/\$500	Up to 1 yr/up to \$1,000
g. Attempting to register a litter whelped outside of the U.S. ⁶	Rep/\$200	6 mo/\$500	Up to 1 yr/up to \$1,000

⁶ If now living within the U.S., six months; if residents are still outside of the U.S., indefinite, with an application for reinstatement upon return of the U.S.

<u>OFFENSES</u>	<u>MITIGATED</u>	<u>STANDARD</u>	<u>AGGRAVATED</u>
X. Circumvention of Suspension			
a. Circumvention of Suspension*	Rep/Double Original Fine	Double Original Suspension and Fine	Up to life/up to \$5,000
b. Aiding and abetting the circumvention of an AKC suspension of registration or all privileges (All Privileges)*	Rep/\$500	5 yr/\$1,000	Up to Life/up to \$5,000
c. Aiding and abetting the circumvention of an AKC suspension of event privileges (Event Suspension)	Rep/\$500	6 mo/\$1,000	Up to 1 yr/up to \$5,000

Definitions of Offenses

Abuse:	Improper treatment which could cause serious injury to an animal.
Club Official:	Any person acting on behalf of the club in a position of authority or influence in the administration, management, or organization of the club's event.
Cruelty:	Conscious action or inaction that may endanger life or cause serious health consequences to animals.
Harassment:	Inappropriate comments, conduct and/or contact regarding but not limited to race, color, religion, disability, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or are sexual in nature.
Improper Treatment:	Inappropriate treatment or handling of an animal not likely to cause serious injury, e.g. excessive or harsh discipline/training.
Neglect:	Inadequate care or voluntary inattention to basic needs, ignoring the safety and well-being of animals because of haste or ignorance.