

A2 assessments

Important information for all judges who are nearing, or have already fulfilled, all the current A3 list criteria and who have had one or two A2 assessments arranged by a breed club.

With all the confusion that surrounds the new judges competency framework (JCF) we wanted to clarify some points that seem to be not widely known. Some judges think that when we get to 2019, they will not be able to progress further if they have not joined the Kennel Club Academy, that they will not be able to judge, nor to have A2 assessments arranged for them after 31 December 2018.

Transitional years 2019 to 2021 inclusive:

Judges can still be selected for Limited, Open and Championship shows for these years under the old rules. You do NOT have to be a member of the KC Academy to accept appointments to judge during these 3 transitional years.

A2 assessments:

If you have had one or two assessments arranged for you and think you might fulfil all the A3 list criteria by the end of 2021 (but hopefully before then so as not to leave it until the last minute), **please contact the breed club that arranged your first one or two assessments** and ask them to arrange 2nd (if needed) and 3rd assessments for you, so you can progress to the stage where you are ready to complete the A2 Questionnaire form JD15, which is the form the Breed Club will use to consider whether to nominate you to the KC for their consideration for the A2 list.

THE KENNEL CLUB HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THEY ARE ENCOURAGING BREED CLUBS TO USE THE A2 PROCESS FOR THEIR JUDGES WHO MEET, OR NEARLY MEET THEIR A3 LIST CRITERIA:

The KC have advised, after a query from the Border Terrier Club, that all Questionnaires (JD15) and assessments, must be with the KC by the end of the transitional period on 31 December 2021 at the latest. The KC are urging clubs not to leave this until the last minute.

What happens next?

Should the A2 application be approved by the KC, they have advised us that the judge can be placed at JCF Level 4 on the KC Academy. This is the level at which canine societies can ask you to judge at CC level.

No-one will be able to judge from 1 January 2022 unless they have joined the Academy and paid their £26. To judge at CC level from this date you will need to be at KC Academy Level 4.

So at that stage you would need to join the Kennel Club Academy, but providing you have been approved by the Kennel Club to be placed on an A2 list, you will not have to participate in the mentoring/assessing and observing which are required as part of the JCF:

The only thing you will need to do, as with all CC judges, is to sit and pass the Requirements of a Dog Show Judge exam (RDSJ) once every five years.

Show societies will only be able to offer CC appointments for their shows held from 1 January 2022 to judges who are registered at JCF Level 4. So the KC have advised that realistically, if an A2 application is approved at the end of 2021, that person is unlikely to award CCs until at least 2023. Hence the suggestion that clubs identify who they wish to use the A2 process for and to manage the process.

Judges – action for you to take now?

Contact the breed club who arranged your first A2 assessment/s, let them know where you are judging next (this does not need to be a club show it can be at a general canine society open show) and ask them to arrange further assessments, please give as much lead time as possible as it's not always easy to find someone in the area who is free to do the assessment. If you are not already on the assessing clubs A3 list please make sure you complete all requirements ASAP. Having three A2 assessments organised, fulfilling the A3 list criteria and being accepted onto the A3 list, allows the nomination breed club to ask you to complete the A2 judges questionnaire form (JD15) for consideration by their judges sub-committee (JSC) if their JSC approve the submission they can take this forward for you with the Kennel Club.

If your first assessments were organised by the Southern Border Terrier Club or if you have any questions relating to the above please contact club secretary Helen Axford via email helen.axford@sky.com