



*AMERICAN BULLY
KENNEL CLUB, INC.*

Conformation

Suggested Best Practices for the Well-Being of Show Participants

The ABKC supports each host's informed decision to reschedule, postpone or cancel their respective events, as well as supporting hosts ready to hold events in locations that are open and permit gatherings of over 100. As events resume across the country, people need to feel safe while enjoying their dog activities. The ABKC urges hosts to take appropriate precautions for the benefit of their participants. Events need to be held in a manner that emphasizes the safety of participants and event officials over efficiency.

The following is a list of suggested best practices that may be helpful when planning or attending an event. Event locations, facilities and dates will differ. With a situation that is continually evolving, it is up to the hosts to determine the guidelines that best fit their event. In order to inform participants, specific guidelines established by the host should be published on the host's event page, website and posted on signage/flyer's at their event.

General Practices

1. Hosts, ABKC Judges & Reps and participants are required to follow state, local and facility guidelines that apply to the area and site where the event is held.
2. Practice social distancing consistent with guidelines in effect at the time of the event. Avoid congregating to the extent possible.
3. Consider wearing masks when in close proximity to others. Hosts should provide masks if desired for reps, judges and volunteers.
4. Consider wearing disposable or washable gloves.
5. Wash hands as frequently as possible. Have disinfecting spray at bathroom facilities for people to spray door handles (or anything else they touch). Consider hiring bathroom attendants to maintain maximum cleanliness.
6. If you utilize portable toilets, please ask for a hand washing station(s) to be delivered as well.
7. Avoid shaking hands, hugging, or other physical contact.
8. Avoid touching dogs that are not your responsibility.
9. Avoid common use pens/pencils – bring your own.
10. Disinfect surfaces in common use areas as often as possible (tables, chairs, doorknobs, etc.) Clubs and facilities may consider not providing chairs.

11. Meals - Avoid or stagger group lunches/dinners if possible. Hospitality areas should avoid community items such as salt and pepper shakers, condiments, creamers, etc. Participants should consider bringing their own lunch/drinks.
12. Vendors should follow retail guidelines for the area.
13. Parking – Park with sufficient distance between vehicles if possible. If there is a parking fee, ask exhibitors to bring exact change.
14. Indoor show sites should work with facilities to have as many entrance/exits points open as possible. Hand sanitizer should be available at every entrance to the site and at multiple locations within the site.
15. Parking/unloading staff should wear masks and sanitize their hands following the assistance of each individual.

Event Practices

1. Site Set-up - The size and layout of a site will determine the opportunities available to clubs.
 - Separate the rings if possible, otherwise set-up buffers within rings along adjoining sides to provide separation.
 - If individual rings are not possible, avoid placing gates, reps and judges' or trophy tables next to those in neighboring rings.
 - Must have two gates per ring, one for dogs entering and one for dogs exiting, clearly marked.
 - Ring Stewards should not hand their books to exhibitors for review. Stewards should sanitize their hands frequently and consider wearing a face mask and gloves.
 - For outdoor shows consider marking off areas near the rings for exhibitors to set-up personal pop-up tents. This can also be done for areas near the buildings holding indoor events.
 - Hosts should consider not providing chairs. Private chairs should not be placed in higher traffic areas.
 - Hosts should consider implementing show entry limits.

4. Exhibitors
 - Prepare to be self-sufficient: bring sanitizer, bring sanitizing wipes, bring personal use masks and gloves.
 - Know the armband numbers for your entries before going to the ring.
 - Do not congregate at the ring or ring entrance.
 - While showing your dog, maintain social distances with other exhibitors.
5. Judging is where the ability to socially distance becomes challenging. Taking care to protect the parties will require a concerted effort between the judge, ring steward and exhibitors.
 - Judges should consider wearing face masks.
 - Judges must practice ring awareness, be conscious of spacing, and take appropriate measures to avoid crowding of exhibitors.
 - Judges are to have the exhibitor display the oral exam and may personally examine the mouth ONLY if absolutely necessary. By the nature of the procedure, judges must conduct thumb exams.
 - Judges should sanitize hands after examining each entry. Re-examining of dogs should be minimized.
 - Judges are encouraged to personally pull ribbons for placements. Coupled with frequent hand sanitizing, this will help mitigate contact exposure.
 - Equipment used to measure and/or weigh dogs must be sanitized before and after each use.
 - Hosts should consider providing boxed lunches for judges and reps.

Temporary Change to Help Show Hosts

1. For events canceled in 2020, ABKC will apply Event Application fees to the host's next event of the same type.

Participants are expected to follow state, local government, facility and event guidelines. Hosts should be prepared to enforce the guidelines that apply to their event.

CDC - How to Protect Yourself and Others:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

