

## **MEET THE BREEDS COMPETING FOR CRUFTS BEST IN SHOW TROPHY FOR THE FIRST TIME**

New dog breeds that have come over to the UK from countries as far flung as South Korea and Switzerland will be able to compete for the Crufts Best in Show trophy for the first time this year.

A total of 15 breeds, and 224 dogs, are entered into the Any Variety (AV) Imported Breeds Register Class at Crufts this year, and for the first time the winning dog from this class will be able to go on and compete for the Best in Group and Best in Show prizes.

Amongst the breeds competing for the prize for the first time will be the Braque d'Auvergne, which is the most recent breed to be added to the Kennel Club's Imported Breeds Register in 2016, making it the breed's first time at Crufts.

The other breeds which will be potentially be able to walk home with the trophy this year have competed at Crufts previously, but only in the Imported Breeds Register Class. Previously dogs in this class couldn't go any further in the competition and so weren't eligible to win Best in Show.

The breeds taking part in the AV Imported Breed Register Class are the Braque d'Auvergne, Hungarian Pumi, Griffon Fauve de Bretagne, Picardy Sheepdog, Portuguese Pointer, Korean Jindo, Entlebucher Mountain Dog, Korthals Griffon, Azawakh, Slovakian Rough Haired Pointer, Bergamasco, Hungarian Kuvasz, Bavarian Mountain Hound, Basset Bleu de Gascogne and Xoloitzcuintli.

Caroline Kisko, Kennel Club Secretary, said: "Crufts is the world's biggest dog stage and is a truly international competition, so we wanted the newest breeds being developed in the UK to have an opportunity to compete for the Best in Show trophy.

"A pedigree breed takes time to develop so that it will have predictable characteristics that will enable people to choose a dog that is right for their lifestyle,

in terms of the dog's temperament and care needs, and it takes a while for new breeds to enter our main Breed Register.

“Traditionally we waited for a breed to become fully established in the UK, and to be on our main Breed Register before they could compete for Best in Show, but Crufts is an international competition and we wanted those people passionately developing these dogs in the UK to be able to compete for the main prize. It also seemed to be missing an opportunity to help the breeds to develop positively with the help of the show ring, which rewards the best examples of a breed, which are in the best condition.”

A pedigree breed is moved into the main Breed Register when the breed is established in this country, which is dependent on a number of factors including how many dogs there are in the UK, how many have been competing in Imported Breed register classes, the ability to show the breed is healthy and that any recommended health test are being used and when an interim breed standard has been developed.

Last year, Crufts welcomed a record attendance of over 162,000 visitors joining in the annual celebration of man's best friend.

Almost 21,000 dogs will compete this year, including 3,623 dogs from overseas, compared to 3,469 in 2017, an increase of over four per cent. France has the most entries from overseas, with 462 dogs, followed closely by Italy (411), the Netherlands (334), Germany (319) and Russia (297).

## **ENDS**

For journalists who would like further press information, images or interview requests please email [press.office@thekennelclub.org.uk](mailto:press.office@thekennelclub.org.uk)

Please credit the attached image to Nigel Dear and the Kennel Club

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## Notes to Editor

### Crufts

- This year is the 127th year of Crufts
- For the latest updates you can like the official Crufts Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/crufts](http://www.facebook.com/crufts), follow us on Twitter: @crufts - <https://twitter.com/Crufts> or Instagram: @crufts – [www.instagram.com/crufts](http://www.instagram.com/crufts) - Join the conversation with #Crufts2018
- Images of Crufts 2018 can be found at [www.Flick.media/crufts\\_2018/](http://www.Flick.media/crufts_2018/) The Kennel Club, organiser of Crufts, is the UK's largest organisation dedicated to the health and welfare of dogs. At its heart are programmes and investments in education and health initiatives to help dogs across the UK to live long, healthy, happy lives with responsible owners
- Crufts is a unique celebration of happy, healthy dogs and of the loving relationship that they enjoy with their owners. It recognises the varied roles that dogs play in society and highlights the many different disciplines and activities in which dogs are involved
- Eukanuba is the principal sponsor of Crufts. Major sponsors are Agria Pet Insurance, Frontline, Furminator, Iams, James Wellbeloved and Royal Canin. Official sponsors are Arden Grange, Natural Instinct, Nature's Menu, Orijen and Zoflora. Supported by Dorwest, Fish4Dogs and Lintbells

### The Kennel Club

The Kennel Club is the largest organisation in the UK devoted to dog health, welfare and training. Its objective is to ensure that dogs live healthy, happy lives with responsible owners.

It runs the country's largest registration database for both pedigree and crossbreed dogs and the Petlog database, which is the UK's biggest reunification service for microchipped animals. The Kennel Club is accredited by UKAS to certify members of its Assured Breeder Scheme, which is the only scheme in the UK that monitors breeders in order to protect the welfare of puppies and breeding bitches. It also runs the UK's largest dog training programme, the Good Citizen Dog Training Scheme and licenses shows and clubs across a wide range of activities, which help dog owners to bond and enjoy life with their dogs. The Kennel Club runs the world's greatest dog show, Crufts, and the Discover Dogs event at ExCeL London, which is a fun family day out that educates people about how to buy responsibly and care for their dog.

The Kennel Club invests in welfare campaigns, dog training and education programmes and the Kennel Club Charitable Trust, which supports research into dog diseases and dog welfare charities, including Kennel Club Breed Rescue organisations that re-home dogs throughout the UK. The Kennel Club jointly runs health screening schemes with the British Veterinary Association and through the Charitable Trust, funds the Kennel Club Genetics Centre at the Animal Health Trust, which is at the forefront of pioneering research into dog health. The Kennel Club Cancer Centre at the Animal Health Trust (AHT) contributes to the AHT's well-established cancer research programme, helping to further improve dog health.