



THE KENNEL CLUB
Making a difference for dogs

Vulnerable British and Irish Breeds Competition returns with new format

Scottish KC, Welsh KC and Belfast added to list of qualifying shows

Following the popularity of the Vulnerable British and Irish Breeds Competition in 2019, the Kennel Club has announced that it will take place again this year with a new format, culminating in a grand final at Crufts 2021.

In a move designed to broaden the scope of the competition and offer more opportunities to qualify, BOB winners from the Scottish Kennel Club (May), Welsh Kennel Club and Belfast championship shows will now be eligible to compete in the final, along with BOB winners from the usual selected group championship shows.

To raise awareness of vulnerable British and Irish breeds, and to recognise those people who are dedicated to their survival and prosperity, the Kennel Club created the competition in 2015. It has already proved very popular and at last year's Crufts, Jane Curtis took the title with her Skye Terrier, Ch Brakemill Barnum ShCM, known at home as Barney.

Following a similar format as last year, the BOB winners at designated championship shows will qualify for the final.

The competition is open to all vulnerable British and Irish breeds competing at the following group championship shows:

Toy —	United Kingdom Toy Dog Society
Terrier —	National Terrier Club
Working —	National Working and Pastoral Breeds Society
Pastoral —	National Working and Pastoral Breeds Society
Hound —	Hound Association
Gundog —	National Gundog Association

In addition to the above shows, BOB winners at the Scottish Kennel Club (May), Welsh Kennel Club and Belfast championship shows will now also qualify for the final.

Dogs of breeds which are on the Kennel Club's vulnerable British and Irish breeds list who win BOB at the above shows will qualify for the competition and will be invited to compete in the grand final at Crufts 2021.

Vanessa McAlpine, Crufts Show Manager, said: "The Vulnerable British and Irish Breeds Competition final is a very important event at Crufts. It is a fantastic way to highlight the plight of these breeds and promote them as the wonderful dogs they are. Jane and Barney certainly did these breeds proud on the famous green carpet last year.

"We are delighted that dogs will now qualify from the Scottish KC, Welsh KC and Belfast shows, thus opening up the scope of the competition and giving exhibitors more opportunities to qualify. The final at Crufts is a great showcase for pedigree dogs and the perfect chance to show the world just how special the vulnerable British and Irish breeds really are."

To find out more about the Kennel Club's Vulnerable British and Irish Breeds initiative, please go to bit.ly/3a4V9qJ. All Crufts finalists in the competition will be notified by the Kennel Club in early 2021.



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Puppies for sale: finding the right dog

The Kennel Club is concerned with protecting those breeds of dog which are of British origin and are considered to be vulnerable i.e. those whose numbers are declining and whose status within the world of dogs has diminished over a number of years.

A decision was made in June 2003 that research would be undertaken to identify and confirm the relevant breeds and the extent and nature of their vulnerability. This research not only featured breeds of dog which are basically of British origin, but with the support of the Irish Kennel Club, the research also included native Irish breeds.

The work carried out concentrated on those breeds which achieve 300 or fewer registrations each year in the UK, and statistics were pulled together to identify the relevant breeds and the extent and nature of their vulnerability. A list of those breeds identified is given below:

VULNERABLE NATIVE BREEDS	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Bearded Collie						346	284	420	274
Bloodhound	55	59	50	51	74	77	53	88	62
Bull Terrier (Miniature)	223	216	192	161	189	183	172	189	221
Collie (Smooth)	54	75	88	82	33	78	89	60	77
Dandie Dinmont Terrier	151	98	120	105	144	88	91	130	145
Deerhound	256	237	260	236	234	267	209	266	198
English Setter	349	234	314	326	332	289	285	261	290
English Toy Terrier (Black & Tan)	136	95	126	115	94	78	102	84	126
Fox Terrier (Smooth)	155	137	94	122	142	148	118	82	126
Glen of Imaal Terrier	61	67	57	55	74	79	76	48	48
Gordon Setter					250	234	263	255	172
Irish Red & White Setter	83	119	89	82	102	64	63	70	51
Irish Wolfhound	352	321	302	322	282	293	256	372	239
King Charles Spaniel	199	180	217	161	142	149	84	112	106
Kerry Blue Terrier	223	212	210	169	172	131	168	152	117
Lakeland Terrier	254	247	208	221	176	173	220	196	139
Lancashire Heeler	134	98	104	103	132	81	90	119	112
Manchester Terrier	107	152	124	198	187	192	191	160	172
Mastiff	157	173	140	139	124	149	102	166	143
Norwich Terrier	172	158	170	194	166	147	145	91	81
Otterhound	57	38	37	42	22	34	40	24	39
Retriever (Curly Coated)	72	62	71	118	77	66	83	53	70
Sealyham Terrier	49	63	76	68	97	113	113	167	107
Skye Terrier	37	44	42	17	63	43	28	40	50

Spaniel (Clumber)	271	235	151	247	217	214	171	265	280
Spaniel (Field)	55	46	47	29	70	46	80	50	48
Spaniel (Irish Water)	117	101	148	101	88	132	116	69	111
Spaniel (Sussex)	68	52	74	55	67	43	49	56	34
Welsh Corgi (Cardigan)	46	108	94	102	118	124	218	141	147
AT WATCH	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Bedlington Terrier						395	411	483	307
Bullmastiff								429	409
Irish Terrier	357	277	306	362	371		326	362	384
Old English Sheepdog	507	401	429	461	405		424	384	318
Parson Russell Terrier						407	377	306	307
Scottish Terrier									438
Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier					404	423	326	369	307
Spaniel (Welsh Springer)	338	396	348	353	315	363	299	362	330
Welsh Terrier	432	415	352	447	392	389	401	388	325

Subsequent to this research, the Kennel Club approached all the registered clubs of the breeds concerned for their views and enclosed a questionnaire to help identify ways in which each club currently works with breeders, owners and show societies to promote their breed.

If you are interested in giving a vulnerable breed a home then search for one of the breeds listed above in our our [Breed Information Centre](#).