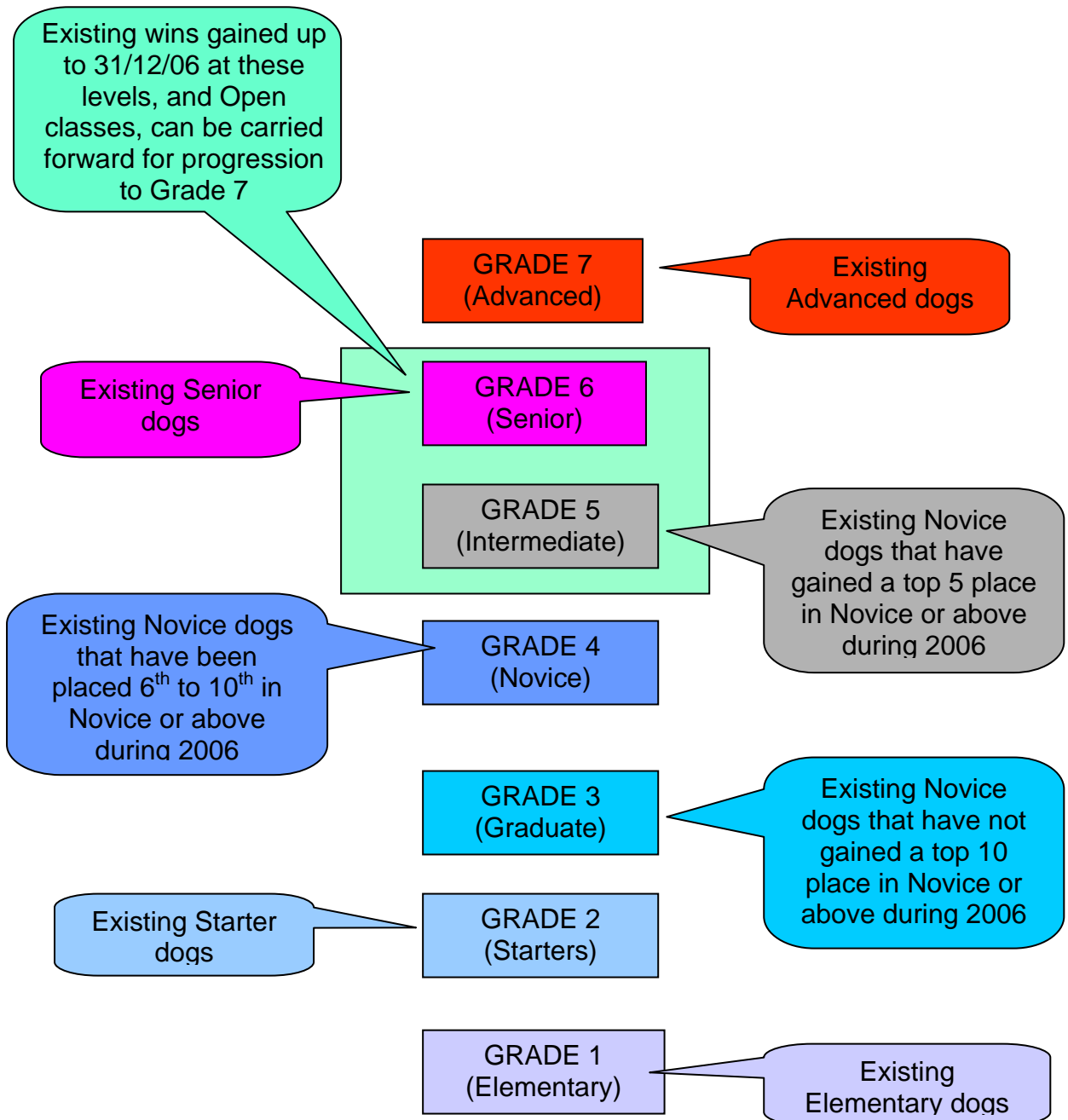


Agility Grading Structure with 2007 Entry Positions for Existing Agility Handlers & Dogs



(with thanks to Paul Wood for diagram development)

Dogs that match the above criteria for any grade must compete in the relevant grade at the start of 2007.

There is an exception for current Novice dogs. Dogs that achieved a top 10 place prior to 2006 in Novice or above (but not during 2006) will have the option, at the beginning of 2007, of competing in the grade achieved, as above OR dropping down one grade to grade 3 or 4 (accordingly).

Agility Grading Structure Questions & Answers

Q1. *Progression can be on points. Who is checking that I've got the right number of points to be in the class that I am?*

A1. All KC activities rely on the truthfulness and integrity of competitors and it's in your best interest to keep your Agility Record Book up to date. Once you've achieved the right number of points to progress to another Grade your record book must be signed by the society secretary at the first show entered at the new level. This means there's no going back to a lower level.

Q2. *If I want my dog to progress on points, from when can I count the points?*

A2. The points are based on those used for the Agility Warrant, although there is no requirement for any of the points to be gained in agility classes (as opposed to jumping classes). Points can be counted from 1 January 2007 and 75 points must be gained at each level to progress to the next grade.

Q3. *If my dog is eligible for Novice at the moment, what grade will it be in next year?*

A3. The current Novice class is being split into three different grades:

- Grade 3 (Graduate) for dogs that have not gained a top 10 place in Novice or above.
- Grade 4 (Novice) for dogs that have gained a place 6th –10th in Novice or above.
- Grade 5 (intermediate) for dogs that have gained a place in the top 5 in Novice or above.

All of these refer to standard Kennel Club classes.

Q4. *If my dog came 4th in Novice Agility in 2003 and is now 8 years old and not fast enough to get placed, does he still have to go in Grade 5?*

A4. No. If your dog achieved its last top 10 place in Novice, or above, prior to 2006, you can choose whether to be in the grade you are eligible for, or one below this. Once you have selected the Grade in which you will compete, you cannot change the dog's level unless you win out.

Q5. *If my dog is eligible for Starters, but has gained a place in Novice, which grade does she go in next year?*

A5. If your dog is eligible to enter Starters classes in December 2006 then she will be Grade 2 (Starters) in 2007.

- Q6. *If my dog has gained 3 (or more) jumping wins, or 1 agility win, in Novice does this mean she will automatically be Senior next year?*
- A6. No. She will be Grade 5 (Intermediate) because she has gained a top five place in Novice. The only dogs that will be eligible for Senior (Grade 6) are dogs that are qualified in to Senior during 2006 or before.
- Q7. *How will my dog ever have more than 2 runs if it is only eligible to compete in one grade?*
- A7. You are currently reliant on societies scheduling classes for you to enter and the same will apply next year. It is up to each individual society to decide which classes they want to schedule. You may actually end up with more choices by having classes open to various grades and they may be either Combined or Graded classes.
- Q8. *What is the difference between a Graded class and a Combined class?*
- A8. A Graded class may be open to one, or more, consecutive Grades with separate results for each Grade. A combined class is open to more than one Grade and there is only one set of results for the whole class.
- Q9. *I am a Show Secretary - if I have a large entry in a Graded class how can I split this?*
- A9. A Graded class can be split by Grade only. If, for example, you have a single class for Grades 1, 2 and 3 and have 100, 150 and 350 entries respectively, you can split this in several ways to suit you and your ring plans; you can have each Grade in a separate ring (and split Grade 3 into 2 parts if required); or, you can have Grades 1 and 2 run together and Grade 3 separately; or, you can split Grade 3 into two parts and run Grades 1 and 2 together in the same ring. The choice is yours to make.
- Q10. *What about if this was a Combined class - how would I split it then?*
- A10. A Combined class must be split randomly, as classes are split at present.
- Q11. *If I am eligible for Grade 2, but win a Combined agility class with Grade 4 dogs competing, does this mean it is equivalent of having won a Grade 4 class?*
- A11. No. When you gain an agility win, or three jumping wins, this progresses you from your existing Grade only - you cannot skip Grades.

Q12. *Does the course have to be set at the standard for the lowest eligible Grade of dog?*

A12. The course design, and suitability, is entirely up to the judge who will take into consideration all the eligible level of dogs. This is, of course, exactly what happens at present.

Q13. *My Novice dog has won three Intermediate jumping classes, which at present counts towards being Advanced, will these be lost in 2007? Will I have to get 4 more wins?*

A13. No - we thought this would be unfair. Wins gained in Intermediate, Senior and Open classes count towards Grade 7 (Advanced) eligibility and can be carried forward. You will still require 2 further agility wins at Grade 6 to become advanced.

Q14. *I am a show secretary - for a Graded class how will I know what Grade a dog is and how will I sort out the results?*

A14. The entry form will need to be amended to include a box asking for each dog's Grade. The specimen schedule and entry form will be amended and sent to all agility societies by the KC soon. In respect of sorting the entries out, all dogs of each Grade will have to compete before the next Grade starts. It is recommended that when processing the entries the class is split into a, b, c etc with running orders, pads and score sheets being prepared for each section (Grade) of the class.

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ENDS

For further information please contact

Press Office

020 7518 1008 / 1020

pressoffice@the-kennel-club.org.uk