THE COMPETITION

ROUND 1 - All dogs from each breed compete for Best of Breed.
Examples: Irish Setter, Bulldog, Golden Retriever, Poodle, Great Dane

ROUND 2 - The Best of Breed winning dogs compete against all of the other breeds within their group.
Groups: Herding, Terrier, Toy, Hound, Sporting, Non-Sporting, Working

ROUND 3 - The 7 Group winning dogs compete for Best In Show

THE JUDGING
As the judges evaluate each dog, they ask themselves:
Is this dog able to perform the job the breed was originally bred to do?
Does this dog have all of the physical characteristics typical of their breed?
How fit is the dog? Do they have the correct gait?
Lastly, the judges study the expression on the dog’s face and general demeanor.
Judges look for happy dogs that enjoy competing in the show.

Note: The best dog handlers should appear invisible, giving all attention to the dog.

THE SEVEN GROUPS

For more information on the breeds, visit: purina.com/dogbreeds

TOY GROUP
Toy dogs are bred for one duty: to be companions to their humans. Many have been bred down from and still resemble their larger cousins.
Examples: Pomeranian (pictured), Pug, Shih Tzu, Chihuahua, Maltese, Papillon
purina.com/toy

TERRIER
Terriers are feisty, energetic dogs. Generally, all breeds of terriers are very good at hunting for low-lying animals like rats, badgers, and otters.
Examples: Norfolk Terrier (pictured), White Bull Terrier, Russell Terrier
purina.com/terrier

HERDING GROUP
Herding is a natural instinct of dogs in this group. Their traditional job has been to gather and move livestock from one place to another.
Examples: Border Collie (pictured), Pull, German Shepherd
purina.com/herding

SPORTING GROUP
The invention of the gun led to the development of the sporting or gun dogs, to aid in hunting by performing at the direction of the hunter.
Examples: Irish Setter (pictured), Vizsla, Golden Retriever, Pointer
purina.com/sporting

HOUND GROUP
Most of these breeds were developed to hunt somewhat independently for their humans, who usually followed on foot or on horseback.
Examples: Greyhound (pictured), Whippet, Bloodhound, Dachshund
purina.com/hound

NON-SPORTING GROUP
The Non-Sporting Group is literally every breed that isn’t classified as part of one of the other groups.
Examples: French Bulldog (pictured), Poodle, Dalmatian, Bichon Frise
purina.com/nonsporting

WORKING GROUP
The Working group includes working farm dogs, police and military dogs, and guide & service dogs.
Examples: Alaskan Malamute (pictured), Boxer, Rottweiler, Mastiff, Great Dane
purina.com/working

INTRODUCING
myPLAN
Get our expert food recommendation to meet your dog’s unique needs at proplan.com/myplan.