

Pyrenean Shepherd Club of America

National Specialty Merit Evaluation Rules

The PSCA offers a special Merit Evaluation for Pyrenean Shepherds, given once a year at the PSCA National Specialty. *

PSCA Merit Evaluation Rules:

- The PSCA Merit Evaluation Program is for dogs owned by PSCA members only.
- In addition to being entered in the Merit Evaluation, all dogs must also be entered in, and compete in a regular conformation class at the National Specialty where the evaluation takes place.
- Merit Evaluation entries will have an opening and closing date, and will be received on a first come first serve basis determined by postmark or timestamp for online entries, in the case that entry numbers are limited. The board may also limit the entry number per owner.
- ADULT - Dogs over 1 year will have a regular evaluation using the ratings: Excellent / Very Good / Good / Sufficient / Disqualified / Cannot Be Judged
- PUPPY - Dogs under 1 year will only be given a preliminary evaluation using the ratings: Very Promising / Promising / Sufficient / Insufficient / Disqualified / Cannot Be Judged
- Evaluations will be done individually, but will be scheduled in the same order as the AKC conformation classes, with all dog classes being done first, then bitch classes, and then BOB dogs and BOB bitches. Within each class, dogs will be scheduled in the following order: those who received placements will be done in placement order, followed by with non-placing dogs in armband order (using numbers from the National Specialty). Five minutes per dog is allotted. Owners are responsible to be available at ringside. (If you are not available at your scheduled class time, your entry will be forfeited.)
- All ADULT evaluations (except Disqualified and Unable to Judge) will be published in their entirety in the PSCA Newsletter, including sire, dam, owner(s), and breeder(s). (Owners must agree to this for their entry to be accepted.)
- Evaluators must be AKC/CKC/FCI judges/breeders of Pyrenean Shepherd that are deemed to have a high level of experience in the breed, with preference given to judges/breeders from France where the breed originates. (All evaluators must be approved by the PSCA Board of Directors.)

** Although this test is given only once a year at the PSCA National Specialty, in unique and exceptional circumstances where an evaluator of outstanding experience is available at another event, the PSCA board of directors may occasionally vote to approve additional Merit Evaluations, which must follow the rules related to these tests.*

PSCA Merit Evaluation Titles:

- Dogs that receive an overall Excellent rating, will be awarded the title PSCA Merit Evaluation Excellent and will be entitled to use the suffix **ME-E**.
- Dogs that receive an overall Excellent rating from 3 different evaluators at 3 different National Specialties, and that have received a CHIC Number will be awarded the title PSCA Award of Excellence and will be entitled to use the suffix **AOE**.

The PSCA will utilize the following Merit Evaluation Ratings:

EXCELLENT (EXCELLENT) may only be awarded to dogs that are considered outstanding representatives of the breed standard (including correct temperament) with a few minor faults, and which are also presented in excellent condition.

VERY GOOD (TRES BON) may only be awarded to dogs that possess the typical features of breed standard, with some minor faults.

GOOD (BON) may be awarded to dogs that possess the main features of the breed standard, with the dog's good points outweighing their faults.

SUFFICIENT (SUFFISANT) must be awarded to dogs that correspond to the breed standard, but that do not possess the generally accepted breed characteristics, or whose physical condition needs improvement.

INSUFFICIENT (INSUFFISANT) must be awarded to dogs that do not possess sufficient breed characteristics.

DISQUALIFIED (DISQUALIFIE) must be awarded to a dog that possesses any show disqualifying faults in regard to the breed standard. The reason why the dog was rated DISQUALIFIED has to be stated on the judge's evaluation form.

CANNOT BE JUDGED. This rating is to be given to any dog that it is impossible to assess the gait, or structure of. The reason why the dog was rated CANNOT BE JUDGED has to be stated in the judge's report.

PUPPIES: Dogs under 1 year of age will use the following: VERY PROMISING / PROMISING / SUFFICIENT / IN SUFFICIENT / DISQUALIFIED / CANNOT BE JUDGED