

STAND UP FOR THE CHAMPIONS

FIRST IN A SERIES, COMPARING PATHS TO CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES



UK CH SNOWOLF MANHATTAN HEATWAVE IS ONE OF JUST ELEVEN MALAMUTES AWARDED A CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE BY THE UK KENNEL CLUB.

Breeder Judge Sharon Loades explains Championships in the UK



AKC or FCI systems; the UK system is based on a dog being awarded UK Kennel Club Challenge

The system for earning a championship in the United Kingdom differs from the

Certificates (CC's), rather than by earning points at each show towards a championship title.

From its introduction into the UK in the 1960's until very recently, the Alaskan malamute was classified as a Rare Breed by the UK Kennel Club, which meant that it was not possible for the breed to earn

Champion titles in the UK for about 40 years. The increasing popularity of the breed and subsequent show entries prompted the KC to change the status of the breed in 2006, from Rare Breed to CC status. This meant that malamutes became eligible to win CC's toward the title of Champion.



SHARON LOADES

About the Author

Sharon and her husband Mark own Snowwolf Kennels (www.snowwolfalaskanmalamutes.com) and have happily suffered from "malamute obsession" since 1996! They are proud to have earned the UK Top Stud Dog title four times, Top Brood Bitch title twice, and Top Bitch once. They have bred and owned multiple BIS, BISS, BOSS, and CC winners, and a UK Champion.

A Veterinary Nurse, Sharon has served the breed through a wide range of volunteer activities. A member of the Alaskan Malamute Club of the UK since 1996, Sharon has served two terms on the Committee of the AMCUK and currently is on the Health sub-committee. She tabulated the AMCUK Malamute of the Year Award points from 2003-2005. She served on the committee of Newark & District Canine Society for several years, acting as Secretary since 2008. An Associate Member of the UK Kennel Club, Sharon has also written the *Breed Note* column for Dog World weekly newspaper since 2008. Sharon belongs to the Siberian Husky and Greenland Dog Clubs of Great Britain and judges both breeds.

Sharon is UK Kennel Club approved to award Challenge Certificates in Alaskan malamutes and judged the UK Malamute National Specialty in 2008 and the Malamute Club of Estonia National Specialty in 2011. A member of the AMCA for eight years, Sharon judged the Working Dog Showcase at the 2011 National Specialty in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Sharon invites you to contact her at snowwolf.mal@btinternet.com.

To explain how a dog becomes a Champion in the UK is fairly complex; to begin with, a dog has to earn three CC's under three different judges at championship shows. At least one of those CC's must be awarded when the dog is over 12 months of age.

The Kennel Club decides each year how many CC's will be allocated to each breed and at which shows they will be offered; every breed is different. The more popular a breed (and the bigger show entries they achieve), the more CC's they are allocated. The CC's can be a single CC, awarded to the Best of Breed winner only, or two CC's (a full set), one for Best Dog and one for Best Bitch, respectively.

There are about 27 all-breed championship shows throughout the year that schedule malamute classes, but only some of these shows will have CC's to offer; additionally there is one breed-club specialty CC show each year. In 2006, there were only eight sets of CC's available for malamutes at championship shows (including the breed-club show), and two of these were single (Best of Breed) CC's only. The CC allocation has increased each year, so that in 2011, there are 15 full sets of CC's available; this will rise to 19 in 2012, and to 23 full sets in 2013.

Each championship CC show will have a number of classes allocated for each breed; at this point in time, malamutes are generally allocated 12 to 18 classes at each CC show. To begin the process of winning a CC, a dog or bitch first must win their breed class at the show. Breed classes are relevant either to the age or the show wins of the dog when entering and currently include a combination of the following classes for each sex:

- Minor puppy (6-9 months old)
- Puppy (6-12 months old)
- Junior (6-18 months old)
- Yearling (6-24 months old)
- Novice (For dogs that have not won a CC or three or more First

Prizes at Open or Championship Shows (Minor Puppy, Special Minor Puppy, Puppy, and Special Puppy classes excepted, whether restricted or not)

- Graduate (For dogs that have not won a CC or four or more First Prizes at Championship Shows in Graduate, Post Graduate, Minor Limit, Mid Limit, Limit, and Open Classes, whether restricted or not, where CC's were offered for the breed)
- Post Graduate (For dogs that have not won a CC or five or more First Prizes at Championship Shows in Post Graduate, Minor Limit, Mid Limit, Limit, and Open Classes, whether restricted or not, where CC's were offered for the breed)
- Limit (For dogs that have not become show Champions under Kennel Club Regulations or under the rules of any governing body recognized by the Kennel Club or won a total of seven or more First Prizes at Championship Shows in Limit and Open classes, confined to the breed, whether restricted or not, at Shows where CC's were offered for the breed)
- Open (For all dogs of the breeds for which the class is provided and eligible for entry at the show)
- Veteran (For dogs of not less than seven years of age on the first day of the show).

The classes are split into sexes with roughly six to nine classes for each sex, and dogs initially compete only against other dogs of the same sex. Once all the male classes have been judged, all unbeaten males then compete against each other for the 'Dog CC' award. After the dog CC is awarded, the Reserve Dog CC (RDCC) is then awarded; the dog that placed second to the CC winner also competes for the RDCC. The bitch classes are then judged and the same procedure is followed. The judge is entitled to withhold either CC if s/he feels that none of the exhibits present are worthy of a CC, but the Best Dog and Best Bitch awards MUST be presented,

regardless. The Dog CC winner and Bitch CC winner then compete against each other for Best of Breed. If only one CC is available, Best Dog and Best Bitch awards are presented to each sex, and only the Best of Breed winner is awarded the CC.

The entries of malamutes at CC shows are typically anywhere between 90 to 250 dogs, which means there is a LOT of competition at every show! To make it even more competitive, the UK Kennel Club does not allow for a separate 'Champion' class, so champions are judged in the regular Open class. If a Champion wins its class, it competes for the CC along with everyone else, not just for the Best of Breed award. This system makes it harder to earn a championship with a dog in the UK, especially if there is a dog or handler that is winning all the time! There are and have been very good dogs with one or two CC's and numerous RCC's that never get their title; RCC's do not count towards a title, even if a dog earns one or two CC's and 15 RCC's!

There are currently 11 UK champion malamutes (six males, five females) and, at the time of writing, 12 dogs with two CC's who are just waiting for their third. Hopefully, with more sets of CC's being allocated over the next few years, we should see a few more UK champions being crowned in the near future.

