

Types of Specialty Shows

A Cocker Spaniel club may choose to apply for several types of [specialty shows](#). This document is going to define each concisely plus discuss pros and cons in the main areas (facilities, secretary, judges, time or club help needed, and cost).

Supported Entry (with or without sweeps) – when a specialty club buys trophies for an All-Breed show. There are no applications on the specialty or the All-breed shows. Frequently the Cocker club recommends a list of preferred judges or picks for the All-Breed panel. The supported entry is listed in the premium and catalog.

Pros:

- Very little manpower needed
- Facilities, secretary, and judges provided by All-Breed club

Con:

- All entry money goes to the All-Breed club.
- There can be a lose if trophies money is not collected from donors.

Designated Specialty – where a Cocker club designated the regular breed judging at an All-Breed or group show at its specialty show. The club must submit an event application for the designated specialty. Contact the All-Breed club for approval (All-Breed club must submit AKC form too), and submit the specialty event application with the judges designated from the All-Breed club. Sweepstakes or special attractions are permitted. There is no entry limit. The variety winners go to the group, and there is not a BOB.

Pros:

- Little manpower needed
- No building fees or very low if any.
- No or very low judges expenses if hired from All-Breed panel

Cons:

- Secretary usually the All-Breed secretary and expenses vary
- Show more like an All-Breed show than specialty
- Low profit

Concurrent Specialty – an independent specialty or scheduled on the same date and site as the All-Breed show. The specialty club submits the application and judges panel. Sweeps and special attractions are permitted. There is a 100 dog entry limit.

Pros:

- Lower manpower needed
- Building usually at no cost or very little

Cons

- Secretary usually the All-Breed show secretary and expenses vary
- Low profit

Evening Specialty – when a specialty show takes place at the same site as another show, usually an All-Breed show. The specialty cannot begin until 30 minutes after Best in Show or Group in the case of a group show. The specialty club must submit an application and judges panel. The All-Breed club must give permission for this show. There is a limited to 50 entries per judge per ring.

Pros:

- Lower manpower needed
- Building usually at no cost

Cons:

- Secretary may be same as for All-Breed or independent with a fee paid for ring equipment. (Have to be very careful to come out ahead with money.)

Independent Specialty – where one or more club is hosting a specialty show on a date and site that there is not an All-Breed or other show. A club can have up to four shows a year, within a 300 miles radius of their home location. The hosting club(s) must submit a show application and judging panel. It can work out well to have two or more small clubs go together as manpower, expertise, and resources can be shared. For example, one club might have someone who could be the show secretary, and another might do the food or set up the building. This is also a good type of show to consider an “offsite show Secretary” if a club member cannot do the whole job. This will save money or give more flexibility to get other desired and/or necessary items, such as ribbons, judges, etc. Clubs that have hosted independent specialties well over the years are the ones that have money in the bank.

Pros:

- True showcase of the breed
- Much better opportunity for mentoring or learning and can have breed specific activities
- More control and flexibility with budget

Cons:

- Requires more manpower but frequently done by 4 to 6 people total.
- Must secure own facility and have or hire own judges