

**Dogo Argentino Club of America**  
**Certificate of Conformation Assessment (CCA) Program**

**Overview of Program**

The Non-Competitive Conformation Assessment Program for the Dogo Argentino offered by the Dogo Argentino Club of America (DACA) will allow for a Certificate of Conformation Assessment (CCA) to be earned by all Dogo Argentinos over the age of 12 months that are AKC registered and those who are registered with the AKC as PAL/ILP dogs. Spayed and neutered animals are permitted to participate, as are dogs owned by non-members of the Dogo Argentino Club of America. However, see “Limitations of Entries” below.

**General Purposes of Program**

The purposes of the CCA program are to:

- a) provide a non- competitive means of evaluating and scoring the conformation qualities of individual Dogo Argentino against the Breed Standard (as opposed to a competitive “dog-to-dog” comparison as in dog show competition).
- b) provide a useful and informative evaluation with verbal and written assessments by knowledgeable evaluators of the conformation qualities of individual Dogo Argentino
- c) provide archived records of the completed evaluations for all Dogo Argentino that have been assessed to generate reports for historical purposes.

Recognition will be based on achievement by any Dogo Argentino of three qualifying scores of 75 or greater (out of a possible 100) for a CCA as assessed by three different evaluators (one of whom must be AKC-approved Dogo Argentino breeder judge). It is expected that many dogs that may never enter in formal conformation competition would qualify for a CCA under the program. In addition to the qualifying score of 75 or greater, certain minimum scores will be required in order to obtain the CCA title (explained under “Scoring”). In addition, the number of attempts to qualify will be limited to six evaluations for any one Dogo Argentino.

**Means of Offering Program**

The DACA and AKC/DACA-recognized Dogo Argentino specialty clubs, upon application to the DACA CCA Committee and approval by same, may sponsor a CCA event. The event may be held independently or in conjunction with a Dogo Argentino specialty show, local club event, or any combination of these. All National and Regional Specialties should offer a CCA event.

**Awarding of Certificate**

Dogs that receive the required qualifying scores of 75 or greater from three different evaluators (one of whom must be AKC approved Dogo Argentino breeder judge) and which receive the minimum required scores in each category and are not otherwise disqualified or dismissed as set forth herein will receive a “Certificate of Conformation Assessment,” which will be an AKC & DACA recognized title.

## **DACA CCA Committee**

A small standing committee of 3-5 individuals shall serve as the DACA CCA Committee. It will:

- ♣ Receive and approve applications and dates for CCA events.
- ♣ Maintain a record of dogs that participate, and award certificates to those qualifying for a CCA. These records may be retained electronically.
- ♣ Provide host clubs with electronic and/or mailed copies of the regulations, guidelines, entry forms, applications, score sheets, event spreadsheet for entries and other information as may be needed to hold a CCA event.
- ♣ Receive and approve applications from prospective evaluators and maintain a database of approved evaluators and their assignments.
- ♣ Develop and supply necessary forms for CCA events.

Designated members of the committee shall receive event applications and evaluator applications, keep a calendar of CCA events and archive all documents received, as well as whatever other duties the committee may assign. They shall maintain databases of approved evaluators, evaluations and their pertinent information, dogs that have participated in the program and shall be responsible for mailing certificates for dogs that have completed the requirements.

## **GENERAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

### **Host Club Application**

Each club desiring to host a CCA event shall apply to the DACA CCA Committee no later than 60 days prior to the scheduled event on an application form as developed by the CCA Committee. Each application shall include the name of the host club, date, place and starting time of the event, entry fees to be charged, any entry limits and how entries are to be accepted, the names of the evaluators, and the name and address of the host club CCA event point person to whom entries are to be sent and who must be present for the entire CCA event.

### **Evaluators—Number and Qualification**

The number of evaluators at each event must be a minimum of two-three and each evaluator must be on the approved list of Dogo Argentino Club of America CCA evaluators.

To avoid AKC conflict of interest issues, the host club may not use a CCA evaluator who will also be assigned to judge the conformation entry on succeeding days. This rule does not apply if the CCA event is held on the last day of the show cluster and after the AKC breed judging assignment.

### **Evaluator Qualifications**

1. Has been a member in good standing of the Dogo Argentino Club of America for 1 consecutive year including the current year.
2. Has 10 years of experience owning the Dogo Argentino.
3. Has produced 5 Dogo Argentino litters.

4. Has produced 1-5 AKC Champion Dogo Argentino.
5. Is an AKC Judge and/or Breeder Judge
6. Has completed the AKC online course titled "ABCs of Canine Anatomy" and obtained a completion certificate.
7. Must be well versed in the AKC DACA Breed Standard.
8. Has attended and/or presented at least two DACA Judges' Education Seminars regionally or nationally.
9. Has attended at least one-two DACA National Specialties.
10. Will attempt to observe at least one CCA evaluations being conducted on a dog by an approved CCA evaluator.
11. Has been recommended by approval in writing by the DACA CCA Committee for approval from the DACA Board of Directors.

The DACA CCA Committee will keep a list of names and addresses of all approved evaluators and will provide a copy of such list to any host club requesting same and keep an electronic copy of such list on the DACA website. Evaluators shall be given the information on how to obtain from the DACA website a copy of the regulations, guidelines for evaluators, and sample score sheets/evaluation forms.

All evaluators should have a thorough understanding of the breed, including the purpose and function of the Dogo Argentino. Evaluators should also be familiar with the process of evaluating dogs against the Breed Standard, rather than simply comparing dogs to each other and must be willing to provide a written assessment of the qualities of each dog evaluated, using the score sheets provided and abiding by the regulations and guidelines. Evaluators must also be willing to provide a brief verbal critique of dogs evaluated to their owners.

In order to maintain DACA CCA evaluator status, all approved evaluators must participate in an annual evaluator calibration workshop designed to ensure consistency of scoring among all evaluators. This will be free of charge and may be conducted virtually to allow for maximum participation.

### **Advertising Event and Entry Forms**

The offering of a CCA event may be publicized by the host club in any reasonable manner, after the event approval is received. Any advertisement of a CCA event shall include the following:

- (a) the name of the host club,
- (b) the date, place and starting time of the CCA event,
- (c) the entry fees,
- (d) the closing date for entries,
- (e) any entry limits,
- (f) the method of acceptance of entries (per "Limitation of Entries" below,
- (g) the name and address of the CCA event point person to whom entries are to be sent and how entries may be sent, and
- (h) any other information that may be relevant.

The CCA Committee will send updates to the DACA webmaster to keep an updated calendar on the DACA website regarding upcoming CCA events.

A standard entry form will be prepared by the DACA CCA Committee for use by host clubs. Entry forms as prepared by the DACA CCA Committee shall be used by each host club for acceptance of entries. Each entry must be accompanied by a photocopy of the AKC registration for the dog entered. All entrants should be permanently identified by tattoo, microchip, or AKC DNA registration and the permanent identification number should appear on the entry form. The CCA event point person will enter each dog's armband number on the entry form and on the dog's score sheet/evaluation form.

### **Limitations of Entries**

Host clubs shall limit the number of entries in the event to no more than 24-30 dogs per each of the three evaluators. The limit on the number of entries and the method of handling limits, shall be noted on the application to the DACA CCA Committee and published in all advertisements for the event.

### **Clubs may choose one of the two following methods of accepting entries:**

**(a)** accept entries in the order received (first received), in which case a time and date for the opening and for the closing of entries and the method of mailing or sending entries, must be published in all advertisements of the event, or **(b)** accept all entries until the published closing date and time, when a random draw will be held to determine acceptance of entries.

Host clubs have the option to give priority entry to DACA members at any CCA event.

### **Entry Fees**

Host clubs may set and charge reasonable fees for entries in the CCA event, and these must be published in all advertisements for the event. Returned checks and failure to pay the event fee will result in invalidation of evaluations and scores. Entry fees for dogs who are 'no-show' at a CCA event shall not be returned or refunded.

### **Qualifying Scores and Awards**

In order to obtain the CCA title, a Dogo Argentino must obtain all of the following:

- ♣ a total score of 75 or greater from three different evaluators (one of whom must be AKC-approved Dogo Argentino breeder judge), not necessarily at the same event.
- ♣ not be disqualified by any one or more evaluator(s).
- ♣ not score 0-2 in any one category.
  - ♣ not have scores of 0-4 in any two categories; and
- ♣ be awarded a minimum score of 5 in the temperament category.

### **Awards**

The DACA will supply the following to the host club "Congratulations Cards" for those dogs completing a CCA. This card will state that the CCA Certificate will be mailed to the owner of the dog within 90 days of the event. The CCA Committee will issue formal certificates to each dog that meets the requirements of CCA certificate, mailed to the owners within 90 days after the event. If there is a delay, owners will be

notified by email about the delay within the 90 days. The information on the certificate shall be copied directly from the entry form. Any errors on the entry form that are duplicated onto the certificate will be the owner agent's responsibility.

There are to be no awards based on ranking of scores (i.e., "highest score" awards). Final scores and completed score sheets are not to be published or displayed at the event, nor is that information made available except to the scoring tabulators, the CCA event point person, the evaluators, and the handler and/or owner of the dog.

### **Which dogs may participate?**

Except as set forth below, participants in any CCA event shall be any Dogo Argentino over the age of 12 months that is individually registered with the AKC or those who are registered with the AKC as PAL/ILP dogs. Spayed and neutered animals are permitted to participate, as are dogs owned by non-members of the Dogo Argentino Club of America. Exhibitors, owners, or handlers who are under suspension or otherwise not in good standing with the AKC or the DACA may not enter dogs owned by them nor handle dogs in the event. Dogs that have been determined to be ineligible under the section below may not enter or participate in CCA events. All entrants should be permanently identified by tattoo, microchip, or AKC DNA registration with this information on the entry form.

### **Limitation on number of attempts and ineligible dogs:**

The following dogs will be deemed ineligible for a CCA title:

Dogs that have been previously evaluated by six evaluators at CCA events and have not received the three required qualifying scores for a CCA. A dog dismissed by reason of illness or lameness is not considered to have been evaluated (see section on Scoring, below).

- ♣ Dogs that have been found by three evaluators to have any disqualifying fault under the Breed Standard or under AKC rules (except for spayed and neutered dogs).
- ♣ Any dog that has been disqualified at a CCA event for attacking.
- ♣ Any dog that has been dismissed at a CCA event twice for unsafe behavior.
- ♣ Any ineligible dog that participates in a CCA event shall have its score(s) from such event nullified by the CCA Committee.

### **Evaluation Logistics**

*Place; Area.*

The place for the evaluations may be indoors or outdoors as the host club designates. It should be an area large enough to permit three evaluators to examine each dog both standing and moving. A formal ring set up is not required, but a firm surface and suitable footing for the dogs on which to stand and move is required. A minimum area of approximately 50 x 50 feet square is recommended. A small table and chair for each evaluator and for persons acting as stewards should be provided. Enough separation should be present between each dog/evaluator to allow for privacy in verbal conversation. A separate area or areas should be provided for measuring and photography by the CCA event point person.

### **Measuring and Weighing**

Clubs must have an AKC approved measuring device available, that shall be adjustable to the nearest quarter inch. A conformation wicket is not suitable. An approved type of agility measuring device is recommended. Measuring should be done by designated persons familiar with measurements. Each dog presented for evaluation must be measured for height using the measuring device. It is recommended that all dogs be measured before evaluation. Measurements shall be recorded on the score sheets.

### **Photographing**

Each dog entered in the event should be photographed individually from the front and in profile, in a standing position against a plain background. The assigned (armband) number should be included within the photo for identification. A flash drive of all individual photographs and any group photographs should accompany the report to the CCA Committee. An informal group photograph of dogs qualifying for a CCA certificate is also recommended, to be published in the Dogo Domain with the event report.

### **Time**

Sufficient time should be allotted for careful examination, evaluation, and scoring. Fifteen minutes per dog for this phase is suggested, with additional time for writing critiques and other paperwork, as well as verbal discussion with exhibitors. It is recommended that entries be limited to no more than three entrants per hour for all three evaluators.

### **Evaluation in General**

Dogs should be clean and brushed, but need not be groomed as in showing, or formally posed. Dogs should be under control at all times and should accept the evaluators' reasonable examinations. Evaluators should be prepared to see dogs that are not groomed or handled as in show ring competition. Working dogs with evidence of wear are not to be penalized; evaluation of the dog's intrinsic quality according to the DACA Breed Standard is the objective.

Honorable scars and blemishes from work, which do not interfere with or obscure the type, soundness, and basic appearance of the dog, are not to be penalized in evaluation. However, dogs that are lame, blind, missing a limb or other appendage, or otherwise unsound, should not be given qualifying scores, with the exception that: (a) older dogs with effects of aging may be given leeway, and (b) dogs that appear lame should be excused from evaluation, not rated, and the entry will not count as one of the six attempts; however, no refund of entry fees will be made.

Entrants may not submit vet records or any other type of report to indicate reason for unsoundness or disqualifying faults; the dogs are to be evaluated as they exist on the day of the evaluation. Owners are encouraged to present their own dogs, as this program is intended for educational purposes.

Professional handlers may present only dogs that they own or co-own.

Dogs must be observed at some time during the evaluation in small groups of three, in order to observe their behavior and temperament in the company of other dogs and people. "Mingling" should be done in a manner similar to the Canine Good Citizen program, with dogs on loose leashes being walked around other dogs and handlers and evaluators for a few minutes, which may be done at the beginning and/or end of any three-entrant group.

A handler who “strings up” their dog on a tight leash and does not permit it to intermingle during the mingling, after requests from evaluators not to do so, may be requested to leave the ring and the dog marked “disqualified for temperament” (major or minor depending on the evaluator’s discretion).

Male and female dogs may be separated at the discretion of the evaluator, but this is not required. However, females in season must be presented only after all male dogs entered in the event have been evaluated. It is the responsibility of the entrant to notify the CCA event point person that the entrant’s female is in season before the CCA event starts. For the purposes of this program, “season” shall mean a full 21 days from the first indication of spotting or other evidence of season.

Each dog should be examined and gaited individually, as directed by the evaluators. Dogs should be observed primarily in a natural stance whenever possible, observed from all angles, and moved at a normal working trot and/or walk as may be requested by the evaluator. Bait (food or toys) may be used but must never interfere with another dog or exhibitor. No bait may be thrown.

Each evaluator shall individually examine each dog pursuant to the guidelines and the score sheet. Each evaluator shall score and make written notes on the dog’s conformance to the DACA Breed Standard without conferring with any other evaluator. Evaluators shall not share score sheets or compare comments.

During the evaluations, evaluators should verbally comment to the handler on the dog’s attributes as they relate to the DACA Breed Standard and should answer questions relating to the same. Handlers are requested to make reasonable efforts to stay within the time guidelines with regard to questions and comments.

Evaluators may also be available at the completion of the event to answer additional questions from those who presented dogs. Evaluator score sheets shall only identify the dog by arm-band number, date of birth, gender, and height. No names of the dogs or owner/handler should be put on the score sheets or the armbands. The pedigree of the dog should not be made known to the evaluator.

The prime purpose for this program is to foster understanding of the DACA Breed Standard to all Dogo Argentino owners and breeders. Evaluators should comment on the DACA Breed Standard, and the dogs presented, accordingly. However, evaluators are cautioned to use both discretion and candor in any remarks regarding a dog they have evaluated and to emphasize virtues as well as flaws.

## **Scoring**

### *Categories*

Dogs are to be scored in ten categories, with a maximum of 10 points in each category and a maximum total score of 100 points. Half-point increments may be used.

In addition to the scores in each category, evaluators may also mark a dog as follows:

- Dismissed for Illness or Lameness. This is for a dog that shows temporary illness or lameness where the evaluator feels that the dog should not be evaluated further. The evaluator should mark the score sheet

“Dismissed: Illness or Lameness” and the reason why. Dismissed dogs shall not have the evaluation counted against their six attempts, but there will be no refund of the entry fee.

- Disqualified for Reasons Other than Behavior. Dogs that have any disqualifying fault under the DACA Breed Standard and dogs that are unsound or incomplete to the degree that they cannot reasonably be evaluated, are to be disqualified (other than spayed or neutered animals). The evaluator must mark the score sheet “Disqualified for Reasons Other than Behavior” and the reason why. The handler should be verbally informed by the evaluator that the dog cannot obtain a qualifying score and evaluation should be continued for educational purposes.
- Disqualified for Attacking or Attempting to Attack. Dogs that attack or attempt to attack any person or any dog either inside or outside the evaluation area are to be disqualified and dismissed from the event, no evaluations will be made, no scores will be given, and the dog will not be permitted to enter any further CCA events. The evaluator must mark the score sheet “Disqualified for Attacking or Attempting to Attack.” Evaluators and any witnesses (if available) should immediately contact the host club event committee and prepare a short written detailed report at the time of the incident. The CCA event shall be halted until the incident report is completed, signed by all witnesses, and submitted to the host club committee.

***Explanation of the 10-point scoring system***

(10 categories X 10 points = 100 points maximum)

<b>10</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	As close to ideal as can be expected, exhibits type
<b>9</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	Very high in quality; probably not commonly seen, exhibits type
<b>8</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	Obvious general virtue: any flaws are slight, still exhibits type
<b>7</b>	<b>Good</b>	Primarily virtue, although may have minor faults/flaws has type
<b>6</b>	<b>Fair</b>	Somewhat better than merely acceptable; more merit than fault
<b>5</b>	<b>Acceptable</b>	Generally, fulfills the basics but may be overall only > adequate in quality for that trait; or may be a balance of both virtues and faults in that category
<b>4</b>	-	Overall, more flaws/faults or unsoundness; strongly resembles trait of another breed, exhibits little to no type of a Dogo Argentino
<b>3</b>	-	Very obvious faults or unsoundness; strongly resembles traits of another breed, exhibits little to no type of a Dogo Argentino
<b>2-1</b>	-	Almost wholly deficient in merit; trait present but seriously incomplete; incorrect; unsound, no type
<b>0</b>	-	Complete absence of type/trait; unsound

**Add the 10 category scores and enter the Final Score section. Note on the score sheet any Dismissals or Disqualifications.**

**Final score 75 – 100\* = qualifies toward a CCA. Dogs must earn 3 qualifying scores of 75 or higher under 3 different qualified evaluators (1 of whom must be AKC-approved Dogo Argentino breeder judges) to earn a CCA.**

**Not Rated:** : Cannot examine due to misbehavior, unable to evaluate, dog ill or lame, etc. Excuse the dog. The dog will not be evaluated and will not receive a score. Note reason on score sheet.



**No Award:** Any of the following:

- Scored 0 – 2 in any category
- Scored 0 – 4 in any two categories
- Scored less than 5 in Temperament
- Total score was less than 75.

### ***Temperament***

As noted under “Qualifying Scores and Awards,” above, a passing score in temperament (5 points or higher) is mandatory in order to obtain a qualifying score. The Dogo Argentinos is expected to mingle in a normal situation with other dogs and people, behave in an acceptable manner, be sound, trustworthy, and demonstrate better than “average” in this category. Dogs’ behaviors may vary within normal limits for working breeds and this is not an official temperament test. However, indication of undue timidity, fearfulness, nervousness or belligerence toward other dogs or people in what should be a “normal” situation must receive some degree of penalty or markdown, even to the point of failure, if warranted.

### **Score Sheets/Evaluation Forms**

Evaluators are to use evaluation forms (score sheets) as provided by the DACA CCA Committee for scoring and comments. The evaluation forms should be completed in triplicate (which may be by means of carbons, photocopy, scanned or computer entry and print-out) at the event. During the event, evaluators will present completed evaluation forms from time to time with final scores and their signatures to the CCA event point person for tabulation. No scores or forms will be published or displayed at the event, nor that information be made available except to the scoring tabulators, the CCA event point person, the evaluators, and the handler and/or owner of the dog. One copy of the completed evaluation form for each dog will be given to the owner/agent of the dog. One copy will be retained by the evaluator for his/her records for a period of one year.

### **What has to be sent to the CCA Committee**

Within 14 days of the event, the host club CCA Event point person will send to the DACA CCA Committee secretary the following:

- the original copy of each signed and completed evaluation.
- a digital copy or e-mail of the event spreadsheet with all the entry form information entered;
- a completed CCA event point person report (that indicates all dogs entered and which ones qualified for either a CCA award or a CCA qualifying score); and
- the photographs of each dog entered at the event (flash drive containing all photos).

### **Reporting and Publishing**

The host club CCA event point person shall send to the Dogo Domain, within 14 days after the CCA event, a report that lists all dogs that earned their CCA Certificate at such event. The report shall also

include the name of the host club, the date and place of the event, the number of participating dogs, the names of the evaluators, the names of the dogs that qualified for a CCA Certificate at such event and the owners of the dogs. A group photograph or photographs of the new certificate holders is recommended. No individual photos or any scores/evaluations can be included.

Each entry form for a CCA participant will contain permission for the DACA to publish the information from the CCA event. "Publish" means, in addition to the report in the Dogo Domain, that the DACA or the DACA CCA Committee will have the right to publish the scores and/or written assessments/evaluations, photographs, and other pertinent information on the entrant in some form (such as a yearbook supplement, or a separate database, report, or spreadsheet). Notwithstanding the foregoing, only qualifying scores and assessments may be published. Non-qualifying scores may be published only as statistical data, and no non-qualifying dogs will be identified.

By signing the entry form, the owner agent grants permission for the DACA at any time to publish the evaluation information on all qualifying dogs and compile information and/or publish reports for statistical purposes on all entered dogs. Evaluation information of all entered dogs is the property of the DACA and may be published or used at any time for historical purposes.

Any owner or co-owner of a dog that has participated in a CCA event may request computer generated / digital or mailed copies of the evaluation forms for such dog from the CCA Committee. A reasonable fee may be charged for the copies. Copies of evaluation forms may not be released to any other person other than the owner or co-owner of a dog. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the owner or co-owner of the dog is deceased, any qualifying evaluation form for any dog (but not non-qualifying forms) may be released to any DACA member upon request, in order to be able to provide historical data and information for such dogs.

### **CCA rules of conduct and complaint procedure**

All participants in the CCA program are expected to conduct themselves appropriately at CCA events and to be respectful of each evaluator's evaluations, host club members, and other participants.

**Unsportsmanlike behavior and misconduct will not be tolerated.** The AKC Code of Sportsmanship shall be followed at all times.

#### **Code of conduct:**

Sportsmen respect the traditions, sport, history, and integrity of the purebred Dogo Argentino and conduct themselves in behavior that is responsible and respectful. Sportsmen also commit themselves to honesty, values of fair play, and courtesy to those involved in the sport of purebred dogs.

#### **Misconduct is defined as:**

- Inappropriate behavior and or conduct, use of foul or offensive language.
- Unsafe or careless conduct at an event that could endanger other persons, dogs, or property.
- Any activity which is not in the best interest of, or discredits, the CCA program, the event, or the DACA.
- Any behavior that harasses an evaluator or official or any other participant at a CCA event.

Any person (club member) found to be in violation for misconduct may be subject to disciplinary measures from the DACA.

**If there is an incident of misconduct at a CCA event, it shall be handled in the following manner:**

The host club CCA event point person will fill out a misconduct form (found in the CCA section on the DACA website and included as an attachment to approval email from the DACA CCA Committee to the host club CCA event point person) and gather as much information about the incident as possible from the parties involved. This information should then be sent to the CCA committee as soon as possible.

The CCA committee will review the complaint and send it, along with their recommendation, to the DACA Board of Directors. The DACA Board of Directors will determine if appropriate disciplinary action is warranted, up to and including the participant being banned from further participation in the CCA program and/or expulsion from the DACA.

Participants in the CCA program may also use this complaint form to submit other concerns about an evaluator, CCA event, or another participant. The same procedure will then be followed.