



The UKC Junior Art Contest invites young artists to celebrate the unique bond between dogs and their people, inspired by the UKC's "Total Dog" philosophy. This philosophy emphasizes dogs that excel in both performance and conformation, highlighting their versatility, intelligence, and connection with their owners. The contest encourages participants to express through art how dogs not only thrive in various activities but also enrich the lives of their families. This is an opportunity for young artists to showcase their creativity while honoring the dynamic relationship between dogs and their people.

## PREMIER NATIONALS ART CONTEST RULES

### ELIGIBILITY:

- The contest is open to all Juniors competing in UKC Events and students from Pre-K through 12th grade in Kalamazoo County MI.
- Participants must submit original artwork of a dog. The artwork can depict any breed or mixed breed, real or imaginative.

### ARTWORK GUIDELINES:

- **Theme:** The artwork should focus on a dog. You can depict your own dog, a fictional dog, or even an abstract or creative interpretation of a dog.
- **Medium:** All art forms are welcome! (must be able to hang from wall) This includes:
  - Drawing (pencil, pen, colored pencil, marker)
  - Painting (watercolor, acrylic, oil)
  - Collage
  - Digital artwork
  - Other creative media (e.g., fabric art, mixed media, etc.)
- **Size:** Entries must be between minimum 8" x 10" and maximum of 36" x 48"
- Please ensure that your artwork is ready for display and includes any necessary hanging materials (e.g., wire, hooks, etc.).
- **No offensive content:** Artwork should be appropriate for all ages and not include offensive or inappropriate imagery.

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- All artworks must be submitted by June 1, 2026
- Submit one piece of artwork per participant.
- Include the student's name, grade, school, and title of the artwork with the submission.
- All submitted artwork must be entirely created by the artist, without the use of artificial intelligence (AI) or automated tools to generate or assist in the creation of the artwork.
- Physical submissions: Drop off or mail the artwork to 100 E Kilgore Rd Kalamazoo, MI 49002 by the deadline.

### JUDGING CRITERIA:

- **Creativity & Originality:** How unique and imaginative is the artwork? Does the artist bring a fresh perspective to the theme?
- **Technical Skill:** How well does the artist demonstrate their mastery of the medium used?
- **Representation of Theme:** Does the artwork clearly represent a dog or capture the spirit of a dog?
- **Overall Impact:** How well does the artwork connect with viewers and stand out in terms of visual appeal?

**AGE DIVISIONS:**

- Pre-K – 2nd Grade / Novice Junior
- Third – 5th Grade / Open Junior
- Sixth – 8th Grade / Novice Senior
- Ninth – 12th Grade / Open Senior

**PRIZES:**

- Each division will have 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place winners.
- All winners will receive a certificate and ribbon.
- Honorable mentions may also be awarded.
- Artwork will be featured at UKC Premier Nationals, in UKC Newsletters and on social media.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- All submitted artwork will be displayed at Premier Nationals June 10-14th 2026 at the Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds
- By submitting artwork, participants give permission for their artwork to be displayed publicly.
- Artwork may be picked up on Sunday, June 14, 2026, during the afternoon. Any artwork not retrieved on this date will be sent to UKC headquarters, where it can be collected at a later time. Please note that no artwork will be mailed back.

**Questions?** Contact [allbreedsports@ukcdogs.com](mailto:allbreedsports@ukcdogs.com) for any further inquiries.



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