

# **AMERICAN ESKIMO DOG CLUB OF AMERICA, INC. VERSATILITY COMPANION (VC) TITLE AND VERSATILITY COMPANION EXCELLENT (VCX) TITLE**

**PURPOSE:** To promote the versatile nature of the purebred American Eskimo Dog. The American Eskimo Dog is descended from the Spitz of northern Europe, which had an all-purpose utility background. The American Eskimo Dog has been used as an all-purpose dog in the United States for such work as hunting, herding, circus work and an all-around family companion.

## **ELIGIBILITY:**

- 1) All American Eskimo Dogs must be AKC registered.
- 2) It is recommended that the American Eskimo Dog satisfy one of the following health qualifications:
  - a. The American Eskimo Dogs must have received an Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) certification number for hip screening after the age of two years.

### **AND**

- b. The American Eskimo Dogs must have a “normal” certification number from either the Canine Eye Registration Foundation (CERF) or the OFA Eye Certification Registry (ECR) within a year that all eligibility requirements were met, within the last year of the dog’s life, or as of the dog’s 10<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### **OR**

- c. The American Eskimo Dog has been issued a Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) number by the OFA.
- 3) If an American Eskimo Dog has received an Indefinite Listing Privileges (ILP) number or a Purebred Alternative Listing (PAL) number from the American Kennel Club, it shall be exempt from the above listed health tests.
- 4) Altered dogs are exempt from the above listed health tests for VC(X). Proof of such spay or neuter must accompany the application.
- 5) Owners of eligible dogs must be active members of the AEDCA, all dues being paid and current, and have no outstanding debts due to the club. In the case of multiple owners, only one owner must be a member.

**Versatility Companion (VC):** Title to be earned by gaining five points from a minimum of 3 categories.

**Versatility Companion Excellent (VCX):** Title to be earned from gaining 10 points from a minimum of 5 categories. The VC award is not a prerequisite for the VCX. A member may apply for the VCX without having previously applied for a VC. Points used to earn a VC will count toward the VCX.

**Category 1 OBEDIENCE and RALLY (AKC, foreign titles as added)**

- a. Obedience – 1 point for each title
- b. Rally – 1 point for each title
- c. Canine Good Citizen – 1 point for each title
- d. Rally FrEe – 1 point for each title

**Category 2 SCENT WORK**

- a. Tracking (AKC) – 1 point for each title
- b. Barn Hunt – 1 point for each title
- c. Nosework – 1 point for each title

**Category 3 SIGHT WORK**

- a. Coursing Ability Test (AKC) – 1 point for each title
- b. Fast CAT (AKC) – 1 point for each title
- c. Herding Instinct Certification (AHBA or certification from approved AKC Herding Judge) – 1 point
- d. Herding – 1 point for each title beyond Instinct Certification

**Category 4 CONFORMATION**

- a. Champion of Record – 1 point
- b. Grand Champion of Record – 1 point

**Category 5 SOUNDNESS**

- a. CHIC Certification – 3 points or 1 point for each required test
- b. OFA Hip Exam (certification number) – 1 point
- c. OFA ECR/CERF (certification number) – 1 point
- d. Optigen PRA DNA test or “Clear by Parentage” OFA DNA Registration – 1 point
- e. TT (American Temperament Test Society or equivalent, as approved by the AEDCA Board of Directors. AEDCA Secretary maintains the list of equivalent tests.) – 1 point
- f. Other – 1 point for each approved test/certification

**Category 6 CANINE SPORTS**

- a. Agility (AKC) – 1 point for each individual title
- b. Flyball (NAFA) – 1 point for each individual title
- c. Schutzhund I, II, III – 1 point for each individual title
- d. Canine Freestyle – 1 point for each title
- e. Dock Jumping – 1 point for each title (North American Diving Dogs – titles recognized by AKC in June 2014)
- f. Disc Dog – 1 point for each title
- g. Drag Racing – 1 point for each title
- h. Treibball – 1 point for each title
- i. \*\*Trick Dog – 1 point for each title witnessed by certified instructor (AKC recognized May 2017)

**Category 7           WORKING AND FIELD WORK**

- a. Carting – 1 point for each title
- b. Drafting – 1 point for each title
- c. Weight Pulling – 1 point for each title
- d. Hunting – 1 point for each title
- e. Earthdog – 1 point for each title
- f. Retrieving – 1 point for each title

**Category 8           PROFESSIONAL DOG**

- a. \*Police Dog (Active duty or on loan to a department) – 1 point
- b. \*Military Dog (Active duty or on loan to an agency) – 1 point
- c. \*Guard Dog (Security business or on loan) – 1 point
- d. \*Search and Rescue/Professional Tracking Dog – 1 point
- e. \*Narcotics Dog – 1 point
- f. \*Bomb Dog – 1 point
- g. \*Guide Dog for the Blind – 1 point
- h. \*Signal/Service Dog (Certification and Video required) – 1 point
- i. \*Therapy work or AKC Therapy title (includes only those dogs certified through a program by any of the following: Therapy Dogs International (TDI), Therapy Dogs, Inc., and the Delta Society) – 1 point
- j. Bug Sniffing Dog (NESDCA) – 1 point

**Category 9           OTHER**

- a. \*Acting/Modeling – 1 point for each approved incidence
- b. \*Heroic Feats (Documented) – 1 point
- c. \*Other – 1 point for each approved incidence.

\*For recording these accomplishments, a form must be obtained from the AEDCA, completed and sent to the AEDCA Secretary. The form provides for a statement of the work done, signature by a club official or judge with regard to that type of work, signature by a witness, and signature by the owner of the dog.

In the event that an official who has judged a dog and handler can no longer be located, then a minimum of two witnesses who watched the dog work may verify that the dog did perform the work. The training director or secretary of the club that sponsored the event must also verify the performance.

All witnesses must be unrelated to the owner or handler or their families. For the more unusual activities, videotapes or published material, especially that provided by the news media, will be acceptable.

**TO OBTAIN TITLES:** Photocopies of titles, degrees and other pertinent information must be received by December 31<sup>st</sup> prior to the next National Meeting and sent to:

Diane LaBarbera – Awards Chair  
232 Pine Mountain Road  
Clarksville, TN 37042-8216  
(931) 494-4552

You can also submit electronically by sending everything to AwardsAEDCA@gmail.com

Each year those American Eskimo Dogs who have earned the VC or VCX titles will be honored at the next annual AEDCA National Specialty Show.

The title VC or VCX will appear after the dog's name, but these titles may not be used in official AKC publication except in advertisements

Members may submit suggestions for new events to be added to the existing list. All suggestions must include a description of the event, the name of the governing body and a link to the event rules.

Suggestions must be received by the AEDCA secretary prior to the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the year for review by the Awards Committee and the AEDCA Board of Directors.

\*\* When new events are added by AKC, titles and points earned from previous venues will count for up to 1 year after AKC's start of the event. For example, if AKC were to start a new event in January of 2018, points earned in other venues from January 2017 to January 2018 will still count.\*\*

*This Policy was adopted by the AEDCA Board of Directors in 1989 and published in **The Review***

*Amended by a vote of the membership March 5, 1998*

*Amended by Motion #50-00 March 3, 2000 & 20-01 March 24, 2001*

*Amended by the Board of Directors February 24, 2001*

*Amended by Membership Vote National Meeting 2002*

*Amended by the Board of Directors August, 2005*

*Amended by the Board of Directors September 2006*

*Amended by Membership Vote National Meeting 2007 (removing fee)*

*Amended by Membership Vote National Meeting 2008 (re-instated only one owner must be a member)*

*Amended by the AEDCA Board of Directors November 29, 2012 (allow either "normal" CERF or OFA ECR)*

*Amended by the Board of Directors August 2013*

*Amended by the Board of Directors June 2016 (Awards Policy Revision Committee recommended changes to include new events available to the AED)*

*Amended by the Board of Directors June 2017 (added new events available to the AED and clarified wording on Category 5 - Soundness)*

*Board approved adding an email address for electronic submission, July 2023*

*Policy updated with new Chair's information, December 2023*