



Thuin, 25/11/2025

Dear National Canine organisations (NCOs),
Dear FCI Members and Contract Partners,

As we indicated earlier on different occasions, the FCI World Challenge of Top Dogs, which proved to be so popular and successful earlier this year in Helsinki, will be reconducted next year in Bologna (IT). We are delighted to send you, **ATTACHED**, the **entry form** for your **2025 TOP DOG of the YEAR** to take part in the **2026 FCI World Challenge of Top Dogs**. As mentioned below, the will to be represented, the selection system and the funding of the trip and stay are entirely under the responsibility of your NCO.

The Italian Kennel Club (ENCI) will provide a discount on the FCI World Dog Show (FCI WDS) entry fee for the dogs that are entered in both FCI WDS and FCI World Challenge of Top Dogs. The discount amounts to 50 €/dog (no matter how much the FCI WDS entry fee was when the dog was entered). The 50 € will be refunded to the credit card from which was used to pay the entry. The request for reimbursement must be done by the dog owners to the secretariat at the showground.

Entries are possible by using the **ATTACHED Entry Form for the FCI World Challenge of Top Dogs 2026** exclusively. The form must be filled in by the relevant NCO.

Individual entries are not accepted.

The deadline to return the entry form is **15 May 2026** and the email address: worldchallenge@fci.be

Please note that the entries for the FCI World Dog Show have to be made online via ENCI's online system, ENCIShow.

Ticking the box **My dog will also take part in the FCI World Dogs Show** **Yes** ^{*} (on the World Challenge entry form) is NOT considered a valid entry for the FCI World Dog Show.

The pre-selection and the final BIS will take place on Saturday 6 June 2026, in 3 separate groups. The organisers, ENCI, will obviously make sure that there is no interference with the FCI World Dog Show and that the dogs and the judges have time enough to be well ready on time.

We all know the capability and expertise of ENCI to excellently and efficiently organise top events and we shall be happy to count on the presence of the dog representing your NCO.

A reminder about the major points:

THE FCI WORLD CHALLENGE OF TOP DOGS

1. The Challenge will take place on **Saturday 6th June 2026**, in the frame of the **FCI World Dog Show to be held in Bologna (IT)**.
2. The FCI does not provide any guidelines for the selection of the NCO representative. This is entirely at the discretion of the NCO, of what method or system they use to select their representative. Please be aware that all the expenses related to the dog and owner's travel and accommodation, are under the responsibility of the relevant owner and/or NCO. The FCI will not charge any entry fee and ENCI will offer a discount on the fee for the FCI World Dog Show, in case the dog in question is entered at both, the Challenge and the World Dog Show.
3. The dog selected to represent its NCO must be registered with the studbook (vs appendix) of the NCO in question.
4. All participating dogs will be split into three groups, on a random basis. The top four dogs from each of the three groups will compete for the final.
5. Each group will be judged by one judge and a fourth judge will designate the BIS.
6. The Winner of the final will be awarded the title **FCI TOP DOG 2026**.

In case of questions, please do not hesitate to turn to the organisers estero@enci.it or to the FCI info@fci.be

Last year, we were proud to count 49 participating dogs and national canine organisations. Let's move on and beat this outstanding result, reaching at least 50 !

We look forward to meeting you and your representative dog in Bologna!

Best regards

T. Jakkel
FCI President

Y. De Clercq
FCI Executive Director