

FAQ AKC FSS®

Silken Windhound Edition

INTRO

This FAQ provides an overview of the Silken Windhound breed's current relationship with the American Kennel Club (AKC) and addresses common questions about registration, pedigrees, health, and required documentation. This document is intended as a general resource for breeders, owners, and exhibitors and will be updated as new information becomes available.

Our goal is to support the Silken Windhound breed as it moves through the early stages of AKC recognition while helping preserve the breed's integrity for the future.

WHAT IS IT AND WHERE ARE WE?

The AKC registers purebred dogs in the United States and sanctions a wide range of canine events. The AKC Foundation Stock Service (FSS®) is an optional record-keeping service for purebred breeds that are not yet fully eligible for AKC registration. FSS® helps preserve breed records within an established system while a breed continues to develop. The Silken Windhound was accepted into AKC FSS in April 2026.

The Miscellaneous Class is the stage that follows FSS®. At that point, a breed has an approved AKC standard, an official national breed club, and other indicators of progress toward full AKC recognition.

As the breed continues to gain visibility, strengthening its relationship with AKC may support future advancement into the Miscellaneous Class and, ultimately, full recognition.

This FAQ is intended to address common questions throughout that process.

REGISTRATION

Q: How do I register my dog during the initial onboarding process?

A: Request a registration packet from the ISWS Registry team through the ISWS database.

Please visit <https://db.isws.org/swift> to request a packet and follow packet instructions and return by mail to the ISWS Registry team. ISWS Registry will submit the packets to AKC for recording. For any questions, please use the included chat feature to talk to the SWIFT team after creating your account and registering for SWIFT.

Link to chat is <https://db.isws.org/swift/status#swift-chat>

Q: Do I need to be a member of ISWS to register my dog with AKC FSS®?

A: No. ISWS membership is not required to register a Silken Windhound with AKC FSS®.

Q: Is there a deadline to register?

A: Yes. Applications must be submitted to the ISWS Registry team no later than August 14, 2026. After the initial onboarding period, owners will be directed to apply directly with AKC using the AKC FSS® application and pay the applicable fees.

Q: Are electronic signatures or submissions allowed?

A: No. Electronic or digital submissions of forms or signatures will not be accepted.

Q: My dog has multiple owners. Who may begin the AKC FSS® registration process?

A: Any of the owners may begin the registration process. AKC treats all listed owners equally. All owners must agree to the registration and sign the application.

Q: One of the dog's owners has died and there is a power of attorney (POA). Can the dog still be registered with AKC FSS®?

A: Yes. However, the process may be more straightforward if the person holding power of attorney removes the deceased owner from the ISWS registration before the AKC application is submitted.

Q: My dog and/or owner lives in Canada; can I register the dog in FSS®?

A: Yes. AKC FSS has advised us that during our initial onboarding process, they will accept dogs from Canada.

Q: What contact information is required to register a dog?

A: Owner(s) must provide a mailing address, email address, and telephone number.

Q: Will any dogs be registered under Limited Registration?

A: No. Although AKC permits Limited Registration within FSS, that option will not be used during the initial onboarding process because ISWS does not use Limited Registration.

Q: What does the pedigree of an AKC FSS® eligible dog look like?

A:

Generations Recorded with FSS				
0 (not eligible for FSS®)	Dog ("Project", offspring of SW x Whippet or Borzoi GDP)			
1 (FSS® eligible*)	Dog (offspring of SW x Project, recognized SW w/ ISWS reg#)	Parents ("Project", offspring of SW x Whippet or Borzoi GDP)		
2 (FSS® eligible*)	Dog (recognized SW w/ISWS #)	Parents (offspring of SW x Project, recognized SW w/ ISWS reg#)	Grandparents ("Project", offspring of SW x Whippet or Borzoi GDP, ISWS reg# contains "P")	
3 (3 generations of ISWS SW reg #s - FSS eligible, Full AKC status eligible*)	Dog ISWS SW	Parents ISWS SW	Grandparents ISWS SW	Great- Grandparents ISWS SW

***Note:** Only dogs with three generations of ISWS-registered Silken Windhound ancestors in the pedigree may attain full registration after the breed leaves the Miscellaneous Class. Full ISWS registration numbers follow the format 0000-0000/00; a "P" in the number indicates Project Registration. Dogs with ancestors holding ISWS Project Registration numbers, or with missing dogs in the three-generation pedigree, will not qualify for full registration and will remain in FSS®. Dogs listed as "Project" (the offspring of SW x Whippet or Borzoi GDP) are not eligible to register for FSS®.

Q: Will my dog convert to full AKC status?

A: Dogs with complete three-generation pedigrees consisting entirely of ISWS-recognized Silken Windhounds may qualify for full AKC status. This requires the names and ISWS registration numbers of the parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents. Dogs with only one- or two-generation pedigrees, or with only the sire and dam listed, may still be recorded in FSS® as foundation stock for future generations.

Q: How will I know whether my dog's FSS registration was approved?

A: You will receive an AKC FSS® registration certificate directly from AKC via United States Postal Service delivery (USPS).

Q: If my dog is not eligible for full AKC registration, should I still register it with AKC FSS?

A: Yes. Recording dogs in FSS® helps build complete three-generation pedigrees for future offspring and supports progress toward full AKC recognition in later generations.

Q: My dog's color isn't listed! What do I do?

A: AKC has a limited number of color options per breed and the ISWS Color Committee did their best to keep the vast spectrum of colors our Silken Windhounds come in. It is okay if the color is not perfect. The SWIFT portal has a guide, and the Color Committee is also available if you have questions about your dog's color.

Q: What if I heard different information from someone about how this process will work?

A: All official communication on this process will come from the ISWS AKC or Registration Committees. They have the most up-to-date and accurate information on this process.

SHOWS and EVENTS

Q: What will happen to current ISWS events?

A: ISWS events will continue as usual.

Q: Should I still participate in non-AKC events?

A: Yes.

Q: When will I be able to enter an AKC event with my dog?

A: AKC will advise when their systems are ready to accept entries for Silken Windhounds. Updates will be shared once the initial onboarding process is complete and AKC begins accepting entries. This process may take several months.

Q: How can I find FSS Open shows for my dog?

A: Visit the AKC website and select Sports and Events, then Event Search. Choose the state or states you wish to search for and select the event type. For shows, select FSS® Open (OPNC), then click Retrieve.

Q: What AKC events can I do with my dog?

A: Anywhere FSS® breeds are permitted to enter. Some examples are:

- FSS® Open Shows (conformation)
- Lure Coursing
- Obedience and Rally Obedience
- FastCAT
- Agility
- ... and many more!

GENETIC DIVERSITY PROGRAM

Q: Can a Genetic Diversity Program (GDP) dog be registered?

A: No. To be eligible for AKC FSS® registration, a dog must have at least one generation of ISWS-recognized Silken Windhounds within its three-generation pedigree. An offspring of a GDP dog (also referred to as an F1) is not eligible.

Q: What will happen to the Genetic Diversity Program?

A: ISWS will continue to manage the Genetic Diversity Program as it does now.

DNA VERIFICATION

Q: Will AKC require DNA verification before a dog can be registered?

A: No. AKC recommends that ISWS continue registering Silken Windhounds in the ISWS database to help preserve DNA lines. For that reason, breeders should continue dual registration with both ISWS and AKC.

NEXT STEPS and HELPFUL TIPS

Q: What can owners do to help the breed progress toward full AKC recognition?

A: Owners can support progress toward full AKC recognition by registering eligible dogs with FSS® and participating in AKC events.

Q: How long will the breed remain in FSS®?

A: The timeline is not yet known and will depend on how quickly the applicable AKC requirements are met.

Q: What paperwork am I required to keep?

A: AKC requires all who have dog transactions to keep a written record. Here is more information “*Regulations for Record Keeping and Identification of Dogs*” (it also applies to FSS®): https://images.akc.org/pdf/record_keeping.pdf

Q: What is required to move from FSS® to the Miscellaneous Class?

A: To request placement in the Miscellaneous Class, the following requirements must be met:

- AKC FSS Status
- A National Breed Club must be formed with an active membership of 100 members.
- The breed standard must conform to the AKC Guidelines for Writing Breed Standards. Final approval for the standard is made by the AKC Board of Directors at the time the breed is approved for full recognition.
- The National Breed Club should be forming committees, hosting events, and publishing a quarterly newsletter.
- Reports submitted quarterly to AKC.

Q: How does the breed request advancement to the Miscellaneous Class?

A: To request advancement, the breed’s National Parent Club must be designated to represent the breed, with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

The Breed Standard needs to be reviewed and must conform to meet the AKC Breed Standard Guidelines to request advancement to Miscellaneous. A minimum of 150 dogs with 3-generation pedigrees needs to be recorded by AKC.

The National Breed Club needs to have balloted the membership to seek AKC recognition. A formal presentation for AKC club status is sent to AKC Club Relations for review.