

## PUREBRED DOG SHOWS

On the DOGS ACT Web Page under the Events Calendar, you will see published a number of schedules inviting members to enter their dogs in several types of activities.

A championship show is an exhibition of registered dogs at which best of breed and challenge certificates are awarded. A best of breed and challenge certificate evidences the number of points awarded at the fixture towards the title of Australian champion. At these shows only qualified judges officiate.



The show schedule provides all the information that the beginner, and indeed the veteran, needs. In addition to the above items, it sets out the names of the judges, entry fees, admission prices, judging times and sequence, catering arrangements and a wealth of other information. Admission is generally free.

We strongly recommend that new members join the group or breed club if there is one in the ACT which caters for their particular breed of dog. The breed clubs often conduct activities which will assist the new member to quickly acquire knowledge and a better understanding of the sport of dogs.

### Classes

A dog show is divided into several classes which are based on either age of exhibit or prior qualifications. The following are the specifications of classes approved for show fixtures. Please note where separate classes are provided for each sex, the class numbers for bitches are followed by the letter 'a', i.e. Baby Puppy Bitch Class 1a.

Class 1 Baby Puppy - for dogs of three and under six months of age

Class 2 Minor Puppy - for dogs of six and under nine months of age

Class 3 Puppy - for dogs of six and under 12 months of age

Class 4 Junior - for dogs of nine and under 18 months of age

Class 5 Intermediate - for dogs of 18 months and under 36 months of age

Class 6 Novice - for dogs six months of age or over which have not won a first prize at any open show or championship show

Class 7 Graduate - for dogs six months of age or over which have not won a challenge certificate

Class 8 Limit - for dogs over 12 months of age which are not champions or have not gained sufficient points to qualify as a champion

Class 9 - State Bred - for dogs six months of age or over whelped (born) in the state in which it is exhibited

Class 10 Australian Bred - for dogs six months of age or over whelped (born) in Australia



Class 11 Open - for dogs six months of age or over

Class 15 Puppy Neuter - for neuter dogs aged six and under 12 months

Class 16 Junior Neuter - for neuter dogs aged nine and under 18 months

Class 17 Intermediate Neuter - for neuter dogs aged 18 and under 36 months

Class 18 Open Neuter - for neuter dogs aged six months or over

Class 21 Champion - for all champions entering an open show

**Note:** Occasionally desexed exhibits sweepstakes are conducted at shows. Age classes are occasionally reviewed and altered by the Australian National Kennel Council and notification printed in the *Gazette*.

#### **How to enter an exhibit in a dog show**

When you have read the schedule you will note a number of important features of the show are quoted:

- the date of the fixture
- the type of fixture, championship show, open show or competition
- the judge or judges officiating
- the name and address of the Kennel Club Secretary to whom the entries should be sent
- the closing date of entry
- the classes offered for the breeds
- and many more other matters pertinent to the show

If you are lodging an entry form for your first show we recommend you seek advice and assistance from an experienced person, maybe the person from whom you purchased your puppy. Once you decide on the fixture in which you wish to enter, you will need to do the following:

1. Complete an official entry form. These may be purchased from the DOGS ACT office. Entry forms are printed in easy 'cheque book' style with a butt to provide a record of your entry for future reference. Also a booklet of entry forms preprinted with your dog's details may be obtained, for a small charge, and this will save you writing out the same details every time that you enter a show. Or you can enter on line using an on line provider that the club hosting the event contracts to manage entries for them.
2. If you have a booklet of blank forms complete the entry form in ink in block letters or in type ensuring all the information entered in the appropriate places is correct. We recommend you copy the information direct from the registration certificate.

When you have completed filling out the entry form and are satisfied all the details entered therein are correct, place the entry form in an envelope addressed to the show secretary as shown in the schedule along with a remittance (cheque or money order) covering the entry fee and purchase of the show catalogue which comprises a program of all dogs entered in the show under their respective breeds and classes, a standard size stamped, self addressed envelope for return of exhibit number or acknowledgement of receipt of entries and payment of the show catalogue.

#### **Exhibit number**

Within seven to 14 days prior to the date of the fixture you should receive, in the mail, return of your stamped self addressed envelope with your exhibit number, catalogue receipt and a listing of the first number in each group. On some occasions the exhibit numbers will be collected on the day of the event.



### **Preparing for the show**

As the day of the show approaches you should be preparing your dog by regular grooming and training so that it may be presented to the judge in top show condition and trained to behave correctly in the judging ring.

The best way to ensure your exhibit has an equal opportunity in competition is to present it in the best possible show condition by pursuing a regular grooming and training program every day. The top winning exhibitors will tell you that you win your prizes in the backyard by grooming and training your dog - you only go along to the show to collect them! Diet and exercise also play a large part in presentation of your dog.

Certain breeds require special preparation/trimming and information in this respect can be obtained from your breeder.

### **On the evening before the day of the show, prepare for your departure by:**

- Assessing the travelling time you will require to arrive at the show venue in plenty of time to settle down prior to the judging starting time and particularly allowing time for any unforeseen event which may cause you delay en route
- Pack the grooming gear, the dog's leash, a drink container and any other equipment you may require for preparation and/or comfort of your exhibit
- It is worthwhile to consider also a foldaway chair and a table if you have these items available and any other items for your personal comfort, wet

weather gear, beach type umbrella, sun hat, sun block, food, etc., and, of course, water for your dog

- Don't forget:
  - your show ring exhibit number and clip to pin to your jacket or blouse
  - the fixture schedule
  - your entry form butt, or receipt from the online entry provider

### **The day of the show**

On the morning of the fixture arise early leaving home at a time which will allow you to travel to the show venue without panic.

### **On arrival at the show**

Attend to your exhibit so that it is comfortable whilst awaiting your call to the judging ring. *Under no circumstances leave your dog in your vehicle during hot weather.*

Present your catalogue slip to the show secretary's office and on receipt of your catalogue check your entry in the class (or classes) entered and assess the approximate time your breed will be judged by:

1. allowing approximately 40 catalogue exhibit numbers per hour
2. keeping the judging ring in view so that you can see what breed is in the judging ring at any time

Before you bring your dog to the ring, and again when you are waiting to be called in for your class, watch how the judge is going about the task. Almost every judge employs a different technique, how the dogs are paraded, where they stop, which pattern of movement is required, where the dogs that are fancied are placed in the initial stages, how different handling methods are viewed and so on. An astute exhibitor can learn a lot by carefully observing the judge's methods and requirements.

Present your exhibit at the ringside in sufficient time to be able to answer the steward's call.

### **How does my dog become a champion?**

Your dog needs to win a total of 100 points to become a champion, 1 000 points to become a grand champion and 1 000 points including 10 Best in Group Awards under ten different judges or three Best Exhibit in Shows under three different judges to become a Supreme Champion.

Points are awarded at the judges discretion to be best of each sex of each breed (over six months of age) at a championship show, there are also additional points allocated to the best of breed winner.

Challenge points are calculated as follows, five points plus one point for each dog in competition (over six months of age). The maximum points available to any exhibit at any one show is 25 points.

### **In the judging ring**

Pay attention to the judge's and steward's instructions.

Exhibitors will be required to:

- Parade their dogs on the left hand side
- Bring the dog to the judge and stand it to the best advantage
- Move the dog from and back to the judge as requested
- control and exhibit the dog to the best advantage during the judging

### **Exercises**

**Up and back** With the dog's leash in the left hand all the time, move up to the ring edge directly in front of you. Turn so the dog turns to the left on the inside. Return to the judge and set your dog up.

**Correct triangle** Start with the leash in the left hand and move to your right hand top side of the ring. Now move across to the other top side and now return directly to the judge. Set your dog up.

**'O' Pattern** (for around the ring) Simplest of all. Start with the leash in your left hand move

anti-clockwise and finish where you started. Set your dog up.

When you have been judged remain within the precincts of the judging ring until your breed judging is completed.

Once you have more experience and all of this is second nature, don't forget that it was once all new to you and lend a hand to other new exhibitors who may not be as confident.

### **Extreme weather**

In the best interests of dogs and exhibitors shows held in the summer months will include an extreme weather policy on their schedules.

### **Further information**

Further information about DOGS ACT activities including getting involved in showing pure bred dogs, can be found at [www.dogsact.org.au](http://www.dogsact.org.au) OR call our office and speak to our staff during Business Hours (Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday – 9.30 to 2.30) on 02 6241 4404.