

The Kennel Club's Beginners guide to...



THE KENNEL CLUB
Making a difference for dogs

Dog Showing

Heidi Hudson/The Kennel Club ©



Yulia Titovets/The Kennel Club ©



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The Kennel Club's Beginners guide to... Dog Showing

The information contained in this booklet aims to help you navigate your way around what is required when you want to compete in this discipline.

Going to your first competition can feel daunting. However once there you will meet a friendly group of people who are always willing to offer help and advice. With that help and the information in this guide you will be well equipped to start your competitive journey and enjoy a successful and rewarding partnership with your dog in dog showing.

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1. What is dog showing?

Dog showing or **exhibiting** is an exciting competitive activity where dogs compete against each other for prizes or awards. It is a competition where a dog's attributes and **conformation** are compared against a **breed standard** for its breed. Whilst it can often be taken very seriously, it can be a fun pursuit that people and their dogs thoroughly enjoy. Dog shows are held all over the country, and to find a show within your area, please see the Kennel Club's Find a Dog Show website: www.thekennelclub.org.uk/services/public/findashow.

2. What is a breed standard?

The **breed standard** is a blueprint that describes the ideal characteristics and appearance for each breed. It ensures that the breed is fit for function, and covers every aspect of the dog, including health and temperament. The dogs that, in the opinion of the judge, conform most closely to the breed standard will receive the top awards. A copy of each breed standard can be found on the Kennel Club website: www.thekennelclub.org.uk/activities/dog-showing/breed-standards.

3. Where should I start?

- Ensure your dog is registered with the Kennel Club on the **breed register**. Only **pedigree** dogs are eligible to compete at dog shows (this does not include companion dog shows- where **crossbreeds** are allowed to compete).
- Go to a local **ringcraft class** to learn the basics of how to show your dog in the ring.
- Try to go to an **open show** or **championship show** and watch how your breed is shown. All breeds are shown differently so you will therefore need to understand how you can show your dog in a breed specific way.
- Speak to exhibitors who are around the ring side. No question is a silly question, we have all been new

once so go ahead and ask away! Just remember not to disturb or distract someone who is just about to go into the ring.

- In order to compete, your dog will need to be 6 months of age or over on the first day of the show.
- Health is of paramount importance, so before taking part in dog showing, make sure your dog is fit for function: fit for life: www.thekennelclub.org.uk/services/public/breed/watch.
- Familiarise yourself with the **Kennel Club show regulations**, these can be found on the Kennel Club website- http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/49543/show_f_regulations.pdf.

4. Are there any training classes I could attend?

Yes, these are called ringcraft classes and are highly recommended. Ringcraft clubs are usually very sociable, where groups of like-minded people meet on a regular basis and have great enjoyment from training their dogs. The ideal ringcraft club will have classes for beginners, puppies and experienced dogs.

To find a club that holds ringcraft classes in your area, please see the Kennel Club's Find a Dog Club website: <http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/services/public/findaclub/>.

Some ringcraft clubs not only run training classes for your dogs, but also hold competitions such as **matches**, which are like a mini dog show so that **members** can see how they are progressing.

Ringcraft classes can also be used as the basis of training you and your dog on how your dog should be handled and presented even if you have no thoughts of entering the **'show scene'**. They are not just for people wanting to show their dogs but for everybody with a dog, and they will teach the basics such as:

- Socialisation with people and other dogs.
- Training your dog to walk on a lead nicely without becoming distracted by people or other dogs.
- Training your dog to allow people to put their hands on them, as a judge would, to examine and assess it.



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5. What levels of dog shows are there?

Companion Shows

Companion dog shows are fundraising events held throughout the year, mostly organised in conjunction with fetes, charity open days or other similar events, to raise money for a charitable cause of the show organiser's choice. These shows are very relaxed, so they are ideal for all dogs and owners whether pedigree or crossbreed. There are a range of classes on offer and these tend to be split into pedigree and fun classes (which are open to both crossbreeds and pedigree dogs). Examples of these classes could be:

- Pedigree Puppy (Usually between the ages of 6 - 12 months)*
- Pedigree Junior (Usually between the ages of 6 - 18 months)*
- Pedigree Open (Open to all ages)*
- Any Variety Dog with the waggiest tail (Open to all ages and is judged on your dog's tail wagging)*
- Any Variety Fancy Dress (Open to all ages, the handler and dog are able to dress up for this competition) *
- Any Variety Best Six Legs (This is judged on your dog's legs and your legs combined)*

Companion shows are a great activity to become involved in and offer owners a great opportunity for a fun day out with their companion.

*Be sure to check with the organisers to make sure you are eligible for the class, at some competitions these will change.

Limited Shows

A **limited show** is an entry level show that is restricted either geographically or by membership of a club, group, society or breed. Dogs that have won a **Challenge Certificate** or obtained any award that counts towards the title of Champion under the rules of any governing body recognised by the Kennel Club, are not eligible for entry at these shows.

Open Shows

Open shows are open to all pedigree dogs. Open shows can be restricted to a breed or can be open to a number of breeds and can often be considered as the first step to serious dog showing. They can be an excellent place to improve your skills as the atmosphere can be quite relaxed and they provide a good opportunity to speak to other people involved in the activity. If you win Best in Show, Reserve Best in Show or Best Puppy in Show at a general or group open show, your dog will have qualified to participate at Crufts (the largest dog show in the world - www.crufts.org.uk).

Premier shows are open to all levels of pedigree dogs. Premier open shows are a larger version of an open show and are run on a similar format, but in addition some winning dogs have the opportunity to qualify for Crufts. To see if you are eligible, please see the society's schedule.

Championship Dog Shows

Championship shows are the highest level of dog show in the UK. They are open to all exhibitors but there is a higher level of competition as it is here that in certain breeds dogs can win a Challenge Certificate (also known as CCs, or tickets) and may also qualify for Crufts. A Challenge Certificate is awarded to the dog that the judge believes is the best dog and the best bitch within each breed on the day. The judge will only award the CC if they believe that the winning dog is of such outstanding merit as to be worthy of the title of champion. Any dog that wins three CCs (under three different judges) is awarded the title of **Champion**, which is one of the highest accolades in the show world and it entitles the dog to carry the letters Ch at the front of its name.

If your dog is a Gundog or Border Collie, then once you are awarded three Challenge Certificates under three different judges you will be awarded the title of Show Champion (Sh Ch) instead of Ch.

In addition to the CCs, two Reserve Challenge Certificates are also awarded on the day and these are known as RCCs. Reserve CCs are awarded to the second best dog and bitch on the day.



6. What types of shows are there?

Single Breed Show

Open to a single breed only, for example the Pointer Club Championship Show. This will only be a one day show.

Group Show

Open to one group of dogs for example 'Hounds' or 'Pastoral'. There are seven groups which are; Hound, Pastoral, Utility, Toy, Gundog, Terrier and Working.

If you are not sure which group your dog falls into, visit the Kennel Club website www.thekennelclub.org.uk/activities/dog-showing/breed-standards or speak to your breed club.

General Show

This type of show can take place over several days, and has the option to hold classes for all dog groups.

7. Which show should I start with?

Limited or open shows are a great place to start. They are more relaxed compared to a championship show.

Once you feel comfortable in the ring with your dog you may then decide to attend a championship show.

8. What is a schedule and entry form?

Schedule – a schedule is a small booklet of information detailing the show's information and includes the entry form. It will list all the classes available, the breeds that have classes, the judges who are judging the classes, the Secretary's information, the class definitions, the venue address and much more. These can be obtained free of charge, from the Show Secretary, at your local ringcraft class, published in the dog press or by going to an online entry database such as Higham Press or Fosse Data.

Entry Form – To enter a show, you will need to find your way to the right part of the schedule, which has the entry form. From there you will need to select which class, or classes, you would like to enter - the schedule will always offer detailed definitions of each class. It is worth mentioning that you are not limited to just one class, and you can enter as many classes as your dog is eligible for and that you wish to compete in. However, as someone who is new to showing, it might be worth just entering one or two classes so you can get used to

the ring and not overdo showing your dog.

Signing the entry form is important as it forms the contract between yourself and the show society. If the dog is jointly owned, both owners should sign the entry form unless one of the parties has the written permission of the other to sign on their behalf. By signing, you are declaring that your dog is fit and healthy to take part in the show, and that you will abide by Kennel Club rules and regulations.

NOTE: If your dog has had an operation that alters its natural conformation you must write to the Kennel Club to seek permission to continue to show your dog before entering any more shows. In order to preserve the integrity of its register of pure-bred dogs it needs to know that the dogs being exhibited at shows are the best examples of the breed and have not been surgically altered to improve their chances of winning. If in doubt, check with the Kennel Club.

9. Do I need to pay in advance or can I pay on the day?

Payment for all dog shows must be made in advance of the show, except for companion shows where payment will be made on the day. There will be a closing date on the front of the schedule for entries to be received by. Most shows allow for postal entries and online; these tend to have two different closing dates. Closing dates are very strict and it should be noted that late entries will not be accepted.



10. What is a proof of posting?

A proof of posting is proof that you have posted the item declared on the certificate into the Royal Mail network. The certificate of posting needs to be date stamped and signed at a Post Office® window as having been accepted into the network.

This is only needed for an entry that is made via post. You may be asked to produce the certificate if for any reason your entry does not reach the show secretary. In which case you will be permitted to show your dog, but will be required to provide evidence of having

made an entry. For entries made online, a copy of your entry will be sent to your email address or for some online entry processors they will have them available to download. You will need to retain this in case your entry does not reach the show secretary.

In these circumstances, the Kennel Club will contact exhibitors who have not provided proof of posting or proof of online entry following the show. It is a good idea to staple your proof of posting to the schedule to avoid mislaying it.

11. Where can I find schedules?

There are a number of online entry websites which may be used to make your entry, such as:

- Higham Press - www.highampress.co.uk
- Fosse Data - www.fossedata.co.uk

Once you have signed up you will be able to add all your dog's details so next time you wish to

enter a show you can enter quickly. You can also find schedules at most shows either on the Our Dogs newspaper stand or at the secretaries' desk. Alternatively, you could contact the Club Secretary to find out how to obtain a schedule or pick one up at your local ringcraft class.

12. What are the different types of classes?

When entering a show, you will have a number of different classes to choose from. These are all found in the schedule. The definitions are usually based on either the age of your dog, or on your dog's wins at previous shows. Below is guidance on the typical classes you will find at a show:

- Minor Puppy - For dogs of 6 and not exceeding 9 calendar months of age on the first day of the show.
- Puppy - For dogs of 6 and not exceeding 12 calendar months of age on the first day of the show.
- Junior - For dogs of 6 and not exceeding 18 calendar months of age on the first day of the show.
- Yearling - For dogs of 12 and not exceeding 24 calendar months of age on the first day of the show.
- Novice - For dogs which have not won a Challenge Certificate or 3 or more First Prizes at open and championship shows (Minor Puppy, Special Minor Puppy, Puppy and Special Puppy Classes excepted, whether restricted or not).
- Post Graduate - For dogs which have not won a Challenge Certificate or 5 or more First Prizes at championship shows in Post Graduate, Minor Limit, Mid Limit, Limit and Open Classes, whether restricted or not where Challenge Certificates were offered for the breed.
- Limit - For dogs which have not become show Champions under Kennel Club Regulations or under the rules of any governing body recognised by the Kennel Club, won 3 or more CACIB/CAC/Green Stars or won 7 or more First Prizes in all, at championship shows in Limit or Open Classes, confined to the breed, whether restricted or not at shows where Challenge Certificates were offered for the breed.

- Open - For all dogs of the breed for which the class is provided and eligible for entry at the Show.
- Any Variety Not Separately Classified - For breeds of dog for which no separate breed classes are scheduled.

NOTE: When entering a show, please check to see if you are eligible for the class you have entered into. If you are over qualified or under qualified you may end up having your awards removed. Full details of class types and required eligibility can be found in the F regulations under regulation F(A)- www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/49543/show_f_regulations.



13. Certificate Types

There are a number of other types of awards that you and your dog can achieve within the dog show world, such as a **Junior Warrant, Show Certificate of Excellence, Veteran Warrant, Open Show Winner, Champion** and **Stud Book Number**.

Junior Warrant (JW)

The Junior Warrant is an award that a dog can achieve through winning certain classes and awards at open and championship shows, when the dog is between 6 and 18 months of age. A Junior Warrant enables your dog to gain a **Stud Book Number** (see below). Once you have received your certificate confirming you have been awarded a Junior Warrant you may enter your dog at shows with the title JW after its name. To download an application form for submitting your points for a Junior Warrant please visit- www.thekennelclub.org.uk/activities/dog-showing/already-involved-in-dog-showing/dog-show-awards.

Show Certificate of Excellence (ShCEX)

(Available to apply for from 2019)

A dog can achieve a **Show Certificate of Excellence** through winning a number of awards as listed below: Scale of points will be as follows:

- 1) A minimum of five points must be won in Group competition at show(s) judged on the group system.
- 2) Five points for Best in Show at a General Open Show or Group Open Show judged on the Group system.
- 3) Three points for Reserve Best in Show at a General Open Show or Group Open Show judged on the Group system.
- 4) Nine points for Best in Show at a General Open Show not judged on the Group system.
- 5) Seven points for Reserve Best in Show at a General Open Show not judged on the Group system.
- 6) Five points for Best in Show at a Group Open Show not judged on the Group system.
- 7) Four points for Reserve Best in Show at a Group Open Show not judged on the Group system.
- 8) Group placings will obtain the following points (Multi Group Shows only):
 - 1st – four points
 - 2nd – three points
 - 3rd – two points
 - 4th – one point
- 9) One point for Best Any Variety Not Separately Classified (AVNSC Hound, Gundog etc. winner of overall Best AVNSC).
- 10) One point for Best AV Imported Register.
- 11) One point for Best of Breed.
- 12) Only points won after 1st January 2018 may be counted towards this award.

These awards can only be won at general and group open shows. Each dog must obtain a total of 50 points to be able to apply for this award and must be 18 months or over. Once you have received your certificate you may enter your dog at shows with the title ShCEX after its name.

You can fill out an online application form for submitting your points, by visiting -

<http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/activities/dog-showing/already-involved-in-dog-showing/exhibitors/>.

Veteran Warrant (VW)

(Available to apply for from 2019)

A dog can achieve a Veteran Warrant through winning a number of awards as listed below:

A total of 25 points will be required to claim a Veteran Warrant.

Points may be claimed from general open shows only, from AV Veteran, or Veteran Stakes classes. Points may not be claimed from breed-specific Veteran classes or from AVNSC Veteran classes.

Points will be available as follows:

- 1st place – 4 points
- 2nd place – 3 points
- 3rd place – 2 points
- 4th place – 1 point

Points may only be claimed for dogs aged seven years or over on the first day of the show. No maximum age has been specified. The Kennel Club is of the view that the exhibition of older dogs should be left to the discretion of exhibitors, noting that there are significant differences across breeds.

Only one claim may be made from each show.

The Title “VW” may be used after the name of the dog on show entries and in catalogues once you have received your certificate.

Open Show Winners title (OSW)

(Available to apply for from 2019)

A dog can achieve the Open Show Winners title by attaining both the Junior Warrant (under the new system) and the Show Certificate of Excellence award. Dogs achieving both will be awarded the ‘Open Show Winners’ Title which may be used in front of a dog’s name.

Champion (Ch)

Dogs can achieve the title of Champion by gaining three Challenge Certificates under three different judges. Being a Champion is the highest award a dog can gain and each Challenge Certificate is awarded based on the dog being as close to the breed standard as possible.

Stud Book Number

In 1880 the Kennel Club introduced a system of universal registration of a dog’s name, which is continued to this day. The regulations for entry in the stud book (Reg. K.1) detail the criteria required for each discipline. By receiving a stud book number your dog qualifies for Crufts for life.

Note: A stud book number is achieved when a dog wins a Stud Book qualifying award at a championship breed show or achieves a Junior Warrant.

To find out what stud book band your dog falls into and how you can obtain a stud book number, please visit www.thekennelclub.org.uk/activities/stud-book-bands.

13. (Continued)

Qualification for Crufts

Dogs that achieve a stud book number are automatically qualified for Crufts for life. There are other ways in which you can qualify for Crufts. You will

need to check your stud book band or alternatively by taking a look on the Kennel Club website- www.crufts.org.uk.

14. What should I do before the show?

- Request a schedule from the Secretary or take a look at an online entry system to preview a schedule there and select the class(es) you wish to enter.
- Post your entry form together with your entry fee to the Secretary before the closing date or enter your dog online via an online entry system.
- Record details of the show/s and classes entered, you may need this information in readiness for completing other award paperwork such as the Junior Warrant.
- If your dog had an operation that alters its natural conformation you must write to the Kennel Club to seek permission to continue to show your dog before entering any more shows. In order to preserve the integrity of its register of pure-bred dogs, it needs to know that the dogs being exhibited at shows are the best examples of the breed and have not been surgically altered to improve their chances of winning. If in doubt, ask the Kennel Club.
- Decide on your outfit, such as a pair of trousers and a jacket. When showing you should dress smartly to complement your dog. Make sure your shoes are comfortable!
- If your dog is showing any signs of illness, do not take it to the show.
- **Groom** and prepare your dog.
- Prepare a **show bag** containing your grooming kit, leads, water bowls, poop scoop and bags etc.
- Remember to take your show passes (if appropriate).
- If you have made a friend at ringcraft or know someone who has exhibited before, ask them to attend with you so you can go through any questions you may have at your first show.

15. What do I need to take to the show?

- Water bowl and water.
- Food for yourself and your dog.
- Any treats you may wish to use in the ring with your dog, this is often referred to as **bait**. Bait is food which entices your dog to respond. This should be used sparingly and should be kept in your pocket or a small bag.
- Bedding, **benching chain** or a **cage**. A bench is a place where your dog is able to rest throughout the show whilst not in the show ring. The schedule will state if the show is benched or not benched. Their bench should be comfortable and the dog should be secure. Your bedding or cage should be able to fit within the bench. An average size for a bench is 24" (62cm). If you decide to use bedding, you will need to make sure your dog is secured on the bench with a benching chain. A benching chain is a long chain which has a clip on each end. One clip will be clipped to the bench and the other will be clipped to the dogs collar. These can be purchased at most championship shows.
- Show lead and walking lead.
- Cleaning/grooming equipment.
- Waterproof clothing (if the show is to be held outdoors).
- Clothes for the day.
- Money.
- A fold up chair, not all shows will have chairs available and if you are on your feet all day you may become tired.
- Proof of posting (if you posted your entry) or a print out of the confirmation email received from the online entry that was made.
- Car park pass, if applicable.
- Entry ticket and pass, please be aware that not all shows issue tickets or passes so you will need to check the schedule to find out.
- **Removal pass**, this is to allow your dog to leave the show. Not all shows will have these so you will need to check the schedule to find out.
- Make sure you have made a note of what classes you have entered so you are prepared on the day.



16. When at the show what do I do?

- Arrive at the venue in plenty of time for you and your dog/s to relax.
- Remember to have your car park pass available if the society requests one.
- Purchase a catalogue (this can be prepaid on your entry form). By having a catalogue, you can identify all the dogs that are entered at the show. You can also follow the classes and see information such as who bred the dog, who the father and mother are and who the owner is.
- If you are at a championship show, find your bench, ring number and show ring. Once you have found these, allow time for your dog to settle and relax.
- At an open show your ring number will be given to you by the Ring Steward.
- Finish off grooming your dog.
- Sometimes your breed might be scheduled after another breed. On other occasions, changes of rings can also take place. Keep an eye on the judging and make sure you do not miss your class!
- Look around the show - you will find that there is so much to discover and learn.
- Always clean up after your dog.
- Always leave showgrounds and venues clean and tidy.

17. When in the ring what should I expect?

- At some shows you will find your **'ring number'** on the bench, however at others you may be given it in the ring. Your ring number will be a piece of card which will have a number printed on it. Before going into the ring, be sure to know which number you are as this will save time searching with the steward once in the ring.
- To hold your ring number in place, you can use a safety pin or purchase a **ring clip**. These are available at most championship shows.
- The **judge** and **steward** will tell you what to do once in the ring. The usual process will be to stand your dog with the others in the class. You will then have the opportunity for the dog to be examined individually. You will then move your dog before the judge selects the winners. The process will become clear in the class and the judge/steward will explain everything along the way. It is good to watch one or two classes before your own class to get an idea of what the judge is asking the exhibitors to do.
- There are usually 5 placings, which are made from 1st to 3rd followed by reserve and very highly commended (VHC). Placings are never made in reverse order. Sometimes a judge will select more than five and not place them, this is called a **'shortlist'** or a **'cut'**. After this the judge may move the dogs again before placing the final five. If you are not lucky enough to be selected then you should leave the ring quietly.
- The Kennel Club expects all exhibitors/competitors taking part in its licensed events to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. You should never interfere with another dog in competition, or try to distract a dog, or otherwise impede it from giving its best.
- You should never handle your dog harshly or use punitive correction. The Kennel Club advocates positive training methods at all times.
- Your dog should be kept on a lead and under control at all times within the showground. Again, safety is paramount, and all responsible dog owners want to enjoy a good day out without problems of loose or unruly dogs.

18. When moving my dog, what type of patterns could I be asked for?

Pattern work is where exhibitors are asked to do one of the patterns below to show the dog's movement off. It will always be the judge's preference when it comes to asking for pattern work. Below is a list of patterns that are commonly used in the show ring:

The Triangle

The most common shape used in the ring as it shows rear, side and front movement of your dog. Start with your dog in front of the judge with your dog's lead in your left hand, make sure your dog is in line with where you are going, move off in a straight diagonal line towards the right hand corner of the ring, when you reach the corner turn neatly left and follow the back edge of the ring straight along. When moving your dog, do not stop at the corner, but slow down to create a flowing sharp turn, always encourage your dog with voice commands. When you reach the left hand corner of the ring, turn left again and create the last diagonal straight line back to the judge.

The Straight up and down

Another commonly used pattern is the straight up and down. Position your dog in front of the judge's feet and you will be just to the right, with your dog's lead in your left hand. Look directly in front of you and fix your eyes on something to head for in order to create the perfect straight line. Move in a straight line to the end of the ring, turn around and move straight back towards the judge.

The Circle

This can be asked for by the judge at any point during the class but is mainly used at the beginning or the end of a class to compare dogs. Move off to the right (anti clockwise around the ring) with your dog's lead in your left hand and follow the ring all the way around the edge and stop once you reach your place in the ring again. You may be asked to complete more than one circuit, so listen to what the judge is asking for. If you are asked to move around the ring with other dogs do not go too close to the dog in front, keep a distance that is comfortable so you can move your dog at the correct speed.

19. When placed what do I do next?

The judge will write a critique on the first two placed in every class and at some shows will go down to third. The stewards will let you know when handing out the

place cards if you are required to stay for a critique. Critiques will be published in Our Dogs newspaper.

20. If not placed/disagree with the judge decision what do I do next?

You should never question the decision of the judge. You have entered the show to get that judge's opinion and if he/she does not place your dog, remember that you may have better luck on another day. Always stay in line until the final dog has received its placement

card before leaving the ring. It is always nice when you win a placing so say well done to those around you. Remember to treat those around you the same way as you wish to be treated.

21. How do I compete for Best in Show at general championship shows?

At championship and breed shows, dogs and bitches have the same classification but are judged separately. When the judge has completed all the dog classes, each unbeaten class winner will then compete for best dog. The same procedure then takes place for the bitches, after which the judge chooses 'Best of Breed' from the best dog and the best bitch.

of Breed winners in their relevant groups compete in the Best in Show ring. Here, a different judge chooses the best exhibit, which is known as the 'group winner'. In each group the dogs are placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th.

There are seven groups – Working, Pastoral, Utility, Hound, Toy, Terrier and Gundog. At the end of each day/s after the completion of the breed judging, all Best

Once all groups have been judged, all seven group winners compete in the Best in Show ring under yet another judge, who after a final assessment, chooses the 'Best in Show' winner and the 'Reserve Best in Show' winner.

22. How do I compete for Best in Show at open shows (excluding breed club shows)?

At open shows there are two different types of judging which will enable you to compete in Best in Show. These are referred to as 'on the group system' and 'not on the group system'.

On the Group System:

This will work in the same way as competing for Best in Show at a general championship show. The only difference being one is licenced as an open and the other a championship show.

Not on the Group System:

'Not on the group system' is where all Best of Breed winners across all of the seven groups will compete for Best in Show. There will be no group competition and therefore the process is, 1st in your class, Best of Sex (if they have separate classes for dogs bitches) and Best of Breed, Best in Show.



23. Once home what should I do?

Whilst some days you may be disappointed in the result you achieved, always remember that there are plenty more opportunities for you to do better.

24. Suggested Reading

The following Kennel Club publications may be a further source of useful information:

- The Kennel Club Journal - The Kennel Club's monthly journal providing the complete show diary list for the next 3 months.

25. Useful Web Pages

The following web pages may be a further source of useful information:

- The Kennel Club Website – www.thekennelclub.org.uk
- Dog Showing - www.thekennelclub.org.uk/activities/dog-showing

26. Contact information

The Kennel Club,
Clarges Street,
London, W1J 8AB
Telephone: 01296 318540
Fax: 020 7518 1058
Email: CAT@thekennelclub.org.uk
or breedshows@thekennelclub.org.uk

27. Glossary of Terms

Adult Group – The Adult Group will be all of the Best of Breeds within that group competing for the 'Best of the Group'. Although known as the 'Adult Group', you can have puppies who are declared 'Best of Breed' compete in the group.

Benching Chain – is a long chain that has a clip on each end. One clip will be clipped to the bench and the other will be clipped to the dog's collar.

Bait – is food that entices your dog to respond.

Cage – A rectangular box that is usually made of fabric or metal. This will keep your dog secure when it is resting at the show.

Challenge Certificate (CC) – an award made to the dog the judge believes is the best dog and the best bitch within each breed on the day. The judge will only award the CC if they believe that the winning dog is of such outstanding merit as to be worthy of the title of champion.

Champion – A dog that has won three Challenge Certificates under three different judges. If your dog is a Gundog or Border Collie, then once you are awarded three Challenge Certificates under three

Social media is a great tool to share your results but always remember that it can be upsetting and hurtful to other exhibitors/ judges if your views are negative.

- The Kennel Club Year Book - Contains a list of breed clubs and societies with the complete rules and regulations.
- Regulation Booklet for Dog Showing.
- Breed Standards - A detailed description of each breed standard is listed within their Group.

- Find A Dog Club - www.thekennelclub.org.uk/services/public/findaclub
- Find A Show – www.thekennelclub.org.uk/services/public/findashow
- The Kennel Club Shop - www.thekennelclubshop.org.uk

different judges you will be awarded the title Show Champion (Sh Ch) instead of Ch.

Companion Shows – Companion shows are fundraising events held throughout the year, mostly organised in conjunction with fetes, charity open days or other similar events, to raise money for a charitable cause of the show organiser's choice.

Championship Shows – are the highest level of dog show in the UK. They are open to all exhibitors but there is a higher level of competition as it is here that in certain breeds dogs can win a Challenge Certificate (also known as CCs, or tickets) and may also qualify for Crufts.

Conformation – The structure of how your dog is put together.

Crossbreed Dog – a dog that has parents of different breeds.

Crufts – the largest dog show in the world.

Dog Showing – is an exciting competitive activity where dogs compete against each other for prizes or awards.
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27. Glossary of Terms (continued)

Entry Form – An entry form is an important piece of paperwork that enters your dog into the show. On here you put the class, or classes you would like to enter, all your dog's information and you will sign it to make a contract between yourself and the society.

Exhibiting – Where your dog is entered at a show and competes for prizes.

Grooming – Brushing, scissoring, or washing your dog. Your breed will determine how much or little time you will spend on this.

Judge – An individual who is qualified to evaluate dogs at a show where dogs are judged on their conformation and movement.

Junior Warrant – an award that a dog can achieve through winning certain placings at open and championship shows, when the dog is between 6 and 18 months of age.

Limited Show – is an entry level show that is restricted either geographically or by membership of a club, group, society or breed. Dogs that have won a Challenge Certificate or obtained any award that counts towards the title of Champion under the rules of any governing body recognised by the Kennel Club are not eligible for entry at these shows.

Match – a small competition that takes place at a ringcraft club.

Members – individuals who pay an annual subscription to a Club to have a say in the future of the Club.

Open Shows - Open shows are open to all levels of pedigree dogs. Open shows can be restricted to a breed or can be open to a number of breeds and can often be considered as the first step to serious dog showing.

Open Show Winner - For a dog attaining both the Junior Warrant and Show Certificate of Excellence awards.

Premier Shows - Premier shows are open to all levels of pedigree dogs. Premier open shows are a larger version of an open show and are run on a similar format, but in addition winning dogs have the opportunity to qualify for Crufts.

Pedigree Dog – a dog that has two parents of the same breed, which are registered with the Kennel Club.

Puppy Group – The Puppy Group will be all the Best Puppies within that group competing for the 'Best Puppy in the Group'.

Pattern Work – is where exhibitors are asked to do a set pattern below to show the dog's movement off.

Proof of Posting – is proof that you have posted the item declared on the certificate into the Royal Mail network.

Reserve Challenge Certificate (RCC) – Reserve CCs are awarded to the second best dog and bitch on the day.

Removal pass – this is a piece of paper that allows your dog/s to leave the show.

Ring Clip – A clip that displays your ring number whilst you are in the ring.

Ringcraft Clubs – a place where you can take your dog to train the skills they will need to take part in dog shows.

Ring number – a number which is on a piece of card and is given to each exhibit in order to identify them at the show.

Schedule – a schedule is a small booklet of information detailing the show's information and includes the entry form. It will list all the classes available, the breeds that have classes, the judges who are judging the classes, the Secretary's information, the class definitions, the venue address and much more.

Show Certificate of Excellence – an award that a dog can achieve through winning a number of different prizes at open shows.

Show Scene – This is another term for dog showing.

Show Secretary – The main point of contact before, during and after the show. This is the person who will liaise with the committee and the exhibitors.

Shortlist – When the judge will select a number of dogs within the class to take a further look at before placing.

Show bag – A bag that carries all of your equipment for the show.

Single Breed Show – Open to a single breed only, for example the Pointer Club Championship Show. This will only be a one day show.

Steward – An individual who is there to help assist in the running of the ring.

Kennel Club Show Regulations – a booklet that provides the rules and regulations in regards to showing your dog at a dog show.

Stud Book Number – A stud book number is achieved when a dog wins a Stud Book qualifying award at a championship breed show or achieves a Junior Warrant.

27. Glossary of Terms (continued)

Veteran Warrant – An award that a dog can achieve through winning certain placings at open shows when the dog is 7 years and over.