



DOGS
VICTORIA
YOUR CANINE COMMUNITY

New to Showing a Dog Exhibitor Manual 2020

Created to aid and assist the new exhibitor into understanding the basic requirements for dog showing and how dog shows work.

www.dogsvictoria.org.au

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Chapter 1 - Joining an ANKC body

All dog registrations (pedigree papers) are the property of the ANKC (Australian National Kennel Club) the "owner/s" are the registered owner of that dog and once transferred into their name/s.

Each State or Territory in Australia has their own controlling body under the ANKC. To show a dog "you" must join the State or Territory body relevant to where in Australia you live. If you live in ie Victoria then you would join DogsVic. It's very simple either "google" ANKC or www.ANKC.org.au and then click contact us and then click Member Bodies. Every State/Territories contact details are listed. All have a website and contact details. The "new" membership forms are available to download or a simple call to the staff will help guide you through the process.

Chapter 2 - Transferring of your dog

Once you are a member you can have your dog transferred into your name/s. Your dogs "new" registration papers/pedigree will be posted to you.

Your registration papers will have all you and your dog's details. These are the correct details that you will need to supply for entering your dog in any shows. These details MUST BE exactly the same as what is on your registration papers. It must be said if any details are wrong on an entry then it is possible that you could be disqualified at the show, care must be taken. If in any doubt at any time please call your State or Territory body for help.

Chapter 3 - Entering an ANKC show

Part of joining the ANKC via your State or Territory body is that you will receive their gazette or journal. These besides have many helpful articles and details also contain all shows schedules for upcoming show. These explain many important details. Date of the fixture.

- Type of fixture, Championship Show, Open Show, Parade etc.
- Judge or judges officiating
- Details of an online entry provider and, for mail entries, the name and address of the club secretary or catalogue to whom the entries should be sent.
- Closing date for lodgement of entries.
- Classes offered for judging at the show
- Any other important matters relevant to the show

If it is an all breeds, group, multi breed or individual breed specialty show and whether it is a championship show (a show which allows you to gain championship points towards your Australian Championship Title) or an Open Show which is exactly the same just without Championship points.

There will be the date of the show and the closing date for that show. Many clubs now in Australia use an online entry service now. The name of that entry service will be listed on the clubs schedule. Just google that service and follow the step by step guide to enter your and your dogs details (again be sure they are exactly the same as your registration papers). If you choose to entry via a postal/paper entry you will need an entry book (these are available at your State/Territory body. Be sure to enclose a cheque addressed to the club name and correct entry amount.

Chapter 4 - How a show is run

Generally most shows are run in individual groups and in alphabetically order. If there are multiple judges judging your group or differences in judging order it will be listed in the shows schedule. All shows have a starting time. There is no set time for your breed to be judged other than the start time. It is up to you to be at the show and ready before your breed. For a show to run smoothly they must judge in an efficient time frame, therefore can not hold up or wait for exhibitors- you get three calls to enter the ring – after that you are called absent.

Upon arrival you must collect your numbers and catalogue from the show secretary or sometimes numbers are available at ring side. You will need a number holder which is place on your left forearm or pinned to your left lapel. Watch how other exhibitors are wearing their numbers. Its common courtesy to mark your number with the ring steward. You must be ready to enter the ring once your number is called.

Dogs and bitches are judged separately, with a maximum of 14 different age classes with available placings of first, second or third, except at larger specialty shows where numbers of entries may go up to fourth and fifth, depending on the total entry. The Neuter class is in addition to this.

Some shows also conduct 'sweepstakes' competitions for two age groups – Baby Puppies (three to six months) and Puppies (six to 12 months).

All dogs and bitches of every breed in the show are eligible to enter and compete against each other at the same time.

Challenge points

Challenge points are only awarded at Championship Shows and are given to the Best Dog (called Challenge Dog) and Best Bitch (Challenge Bitch) for each breed. One hundred Challenge points are required before a dog can be awarded the title of Australian Champion. This title is retained for life and the initials Ch. become part of the dog's registered name. Judging usually begins in all rings at the same time with the various breeds, followed by group judging, and then General Specials. In All Breed shows, dogs are judged alphabetically by breed according to Group classification.



Best in Breed

For each breed, dog classes are judged before bitch classes. The winners of each class, excluding Baby Puppy, compete for the Challenge if it is a Championship Show, or Best Dog of Breed if it is not.

The dog selected as Challenge will then leave the ring and the dog that came second in the same class as the Challenge winner returns to the ring to compete for Reserve Challenge. Then the bitches are judged similarly. When the judging for Challenge and Reserve Challenge Bitch is completed the Challenge Dog re-enters the ring to compete with the Challenge Bitch for Best of Breed.

Whoever wins this leaves the ring and is replaced by the Reserve Challenge of the same sex as the Best of Breed who then competes with the opposite sex Challenge winner for Reserve or Runner-up Best of Breed. The Best and Reserve Best of Breed automatically win their respective Class in Breed.

The winners of each class then compete with the opposite sex winner of the same class for Class in Breed and the winners for each class then progress to compete for Class in Group.

Best in Group

When all the breeds in the group have been judged, then all Best of Breeds enter in alphabetical order to compete for the Best in Group. The Runner-up Best of Breed then comes in to compete against all other Best of Breed winners for the Runner-up Best in Group.

Best in Group and Runner-up Best in Group winners are automatically the Best exhibit in whatever classes they were entered into. All other classes are then judged by having all winners for each particular age group compete for that Class in Group. This is important to stay for group specials if you have won, BOB, RUBOB or any class in Breed.

General Specials (Best in Show)

When all groups have been judged, the seven Best in Group winners enter the General Specials ring for Best in Show and the judging sequence of Best in Group is repeated.

The Runner-up Best in Group to the Best in Group-winning dog or bitch that wins Best in Show comes in for Runner-up Best in Show. These two dog/bitches are automatically Best in Class in Show, and all other Class in Shows are judged in the same manner as the Class in Groups. Again if you have won Best In Group, Runner up Best in Group or a class in group you are required to stay for BIS judging. It is possible if you won a class in group that you "could" be knocked out for your age class by the BIS or RUBIS for your age class. The only exception is Baby in Show.





Chapter 5 - Basic preparation of your breed

Every breed has a various degree of grooming and preparation for showing. All dogs must be freshly bathed and groomed for judging. Ears cleaned, nails trimmed and knot free. Higher preparation breeds must be trimmed / styled in their correct way for that breed. Google and Youtube have an amazing amount of videos and tutorials available on most breeds. It's very important to make sure your dog is trimmed to a traditional show trim for your breed. Non traditional trims are not acceptable in the show ring. There are a few professional groomers that may be able to help, however it is extremely important that they know and understand a traditional show trim versa a pet trim.

Chapter 6 - Basic training of your dog

It is very important that you have done basic training for your dog. They must be able to walk / run in a controlled manner in the ring. They must stand on the ground and if a small "tabled" breed the table also. They must allow a judge to physically examine them. They must show a stable temperament and show no aggression or shyness. There are many ways to gain experience for both you and your dog by attending show training classes.

Some people offer these in either group sessions or private lessons. Many breeders will help and advise also. Before starting to show your dog attend as many dog shows as possible and closely watch the more experienced exhibitors. Study and imitate what they are doing in the show ring. Many people will try and help, please be sure to ask when they are not busy or just before showing. These people are busy trying to get their own dogs ready. In a very calm and polite way ask if they could advise you on an issue you are having. Before or directly after judging is not the best time, allow them to settle themselves and their dogs and then ask when they are relaxed.

Chapter 7 - Basic dress code

There is no actual dress code for dog shows other than footwear. Shoes must be fully enclosed and able to easily walk/run in. Clothes must be neat and tidy. Many men wear suit and ties, women have smart dresses or suits. This is not a requirement however as long as it's smart, clean and not too distracting from the dog. Long flowing dresses, short-shorts, torn and ripped jeans and distasteful t shirts are not acceptable. No outfit with any identifying names, logo, kennel name or dogs name is allowed. Smart casual is perfectly acceptable.



Chapter 8 - What to take to a show

Comfort for you and your dog is the most important thing. Showing is all about the dog, their comfort and wellbeing is the most important. Water, water bowl, shade and somewhere to securely put your dog (ie. a crate or pen). Your dog is your 100% responsibility at shows. Having something that allows you the ability to leave your dog if going to the bathroom or food vendors is very important. Generally we take a comfortable folding chair, many of us take a form of shade or weather protection. A fold up gazebo or a large umbrella works perfect. Basic to start with is fine. Many of us have the comforts of home and a team of sherpas to carry and set it up. It is up to you what level of comfort you wish for. Always remember it's the dogs comfort that comes first.

Chapter 9 - Ring side preparation

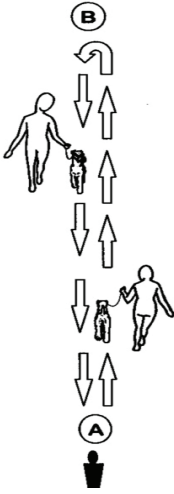
This depends on your breed and the amount of preparation needed to present your breed in its traditional way. Smooth coat breeds minimum need a good wipe over, clean eyes and wipe their mouth. Some coated breeds need a good brush and comb. Big coated breeds may require a good amount of preparation. Again attend some shows and watch what the more experienced people do.

Chapter 10 - Entering the ring

Once your breed is getting ready for judging make sure you are also ready at ring side. Mark off your number with the steward and be ready for it to be called. Best is to watch some of the breed judging before your breed. Most judges use the same pattern when judging. They generally will line the dogs up in the same way and will use the same ring patterns when judging. Watching before gives you an idea of what the judge will ask you to do. The key is to be very attentive to what the steward is saying and numbers been called. In the ring the judge will ask what they require you to do. If you don't hear or understand politely ask again. Judges are generally very understanding for new exhibitors – let the steward know you are a new exhibitor.

Chapter 11 - Basic ring patterns

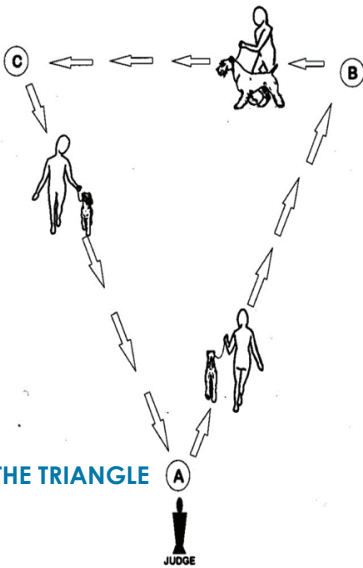
There are several ring patterns that are used by judges. Again something that can be learnt and practiced at show training classes. This is also so important to watch others to learn the way this works. Every ring pattern has a purpose for a judge to assess the dog. Ring patterns allow the judge to see 4 basic things, 1 side movement, 2 overall balance of dog, 3 rear movement and 4 front movement – that is why using smooth straight lines and smooth and collected gait is the most efficient way for a judge to observe your dog.



OUT & BACK

OUT & BACK

Aim of Exercise This is used to enable the Judge to see the dog's rear movement when going away and to see the front movement when coming back. Observe the starting point of the Judge before commencing to enable you to come back straight to the Judge's position. Position your dog in front of the Judge, line an object up in front so you are moving in a straight line. The dog must be moved along the Judge's line of vision and returned with a left about turn along the same line. Never place yourself between the Judge and your Dog. Go out from point (A) to point (B), and then return on same line from point (B) to point (A) stopping approximately 2 metres (6ft) away from the Judge and presenting the dog as per the Judge's instructions.



THE TRIANGLE

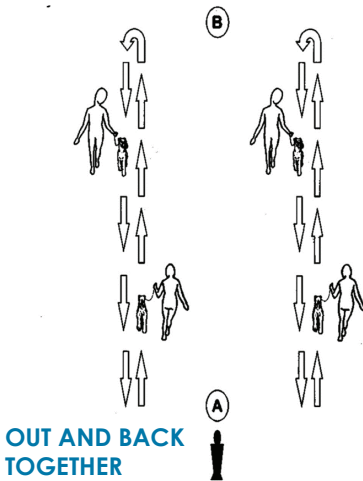
THE TRIANGLE

All Competitions -Aim of Exercise This is used to enable the Judge to see the rear, side and front views of the dog. Observe the starting point of the Judge before you commence. The Judge should not find it necessary to move position to obtain the correct view of the dog. The triangle should not be so wide as to be outside the Judge's line of vision, nor too narrow because the side view would be short. Aim for an equilateral triangle (all three sides' similar length). Never place yourself between the Judge and your dog. Position your dog in front of the Judge. Go from point (A) to point (B) and then from (B) to (C). This should cross the Judge's line of vision. Bring dog back from (C) to (A) stopping approximately 2 metres (6ft) away from the Judge and present the dog as per the Judge's instructions. (Line your objects up before leaving so you can go to each point to form a triangle before starting.)



AROUND THE RING

Around The Ring and Come Back To Me This pattern is to see the handler's control of the dog and the ring craft of the handler. The handler should use the whole ring unless instructed by the Judge. Always keep the dog moving at a correct pace according to the size and breed of dog. The handler is required to leave from the judge and go around then return to the judge stopping approximately 2 metres (6 feet) from the Judge and present the dog as per the judge's instructions. Around The Ring - More Than One Handler This pattern is to see the handler's control of the dog and the ring craft of the handlers. Handlers should use the whole ring unless instructed by the Judge. Always keep the dog moving at a correct pace according to the size and breed of dog. Present the dogs as per Judge's instructions.



OUT AND BACK TOGETHER WITH DOGS ON THE LEFT HAND SIDE

Aim of Exercise- This is to enable the Judge to see two dogs' rear and front movement together and to see the coordination of the handlers handling the breed of dog being shown. Both handlers have their dogs on their left-hand side to avoid dog eye contact with each other. Going out and back from the Judge, both handlers should do a left about turn together and return to the Judge together, still with the dog on the left hand side stopping approx. 2 metres (6ft) away from the Judge. When the handlers return with their dogs, they turn their dogs head towards themselves side on to the judge. The Judge will be judging your ability to keep your dog under control when it is close to another dog, as well as your ability to pace yourself to another handler's gait. It is a challenge to you as a handler to keep your dog moving smoothly and in unison. The handler of the smaller dog should set the pace. The handler of the large dog may have to move the dog at a walking pace to keep the two dogs together.

Chapter 12 - Table stacking/ground stacking for examination

It is important to practice standing the dog on the ground and if needed the table. On the ground to allow the judge to see the outline of the dog and for the dog to be standing balanced without legs been over or under stacked and hold that shape. On the table it is important to be at the front of the table and more towards the side of the judge. This is so the judge can easily reach the dog and perform the physical examination without overreaching. Standing correctly with a balanced outline is just as important on the table. Both require regular practice and giving the dog praise for doing it correctly. Another important reason for show training classes and to attend dog shows to watch how the experience handlers do it. Mouthing/showing teeth, is another extremely important skill. The judge will normally check this themselves so it is so important to train your dog to be accustomed to having this done by a stranger. There are at times the judge will ask you to mouth your dog for them. Both skills need practice.

TABLED DOGS

Place the dog safely towards the front end of the table as shown in the diagram below. Be careful that the dog is not placed too close to the edge to avoid falling and causing serious injury.

Do not place your lead around your neck. You must have full control of your dog at all times and keep the lead coiled in your hand.

Note: The lead is held in the hand for your safety and the security of the dog.

Diagram 1: Handler standing beside the dog



Diagram 2: Stance

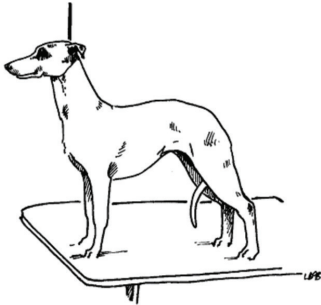


Diagram 2: Front and rear views

Front view of Dog



Rear view of Dog



HEAD

The dog's head is held in a natural position. The breed standard will indicate high or low lead position



Diagram 3: Head held with lead



Diagram 4: Head held by collar

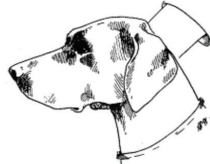


Diagram 5: Head held by hand

SETTING DOGS UP HEAD TO TAIL



Diagram 9: Example of showing bite with one hand



Diagram 10: Example of showing bite with two hands

Chapter 13 - Collecting any BOB, challenge or in group/in show cards

At the end of the group judging any challenge and in group certificates will be available for collection at the secretary's office/tent. Collecting challenge certificates and BOB certificates is important as they are a record of your dogs' points towards their championship title. If your dog has won an in group award these will not be available until after General Specials judging.

Chapter 14 - Additional handling or socialization help and hints

Showing and training is always an ongoing thing. No one expects a new exhibitor to handle your dog like a seasoned exhibitor nor your dog to behave like an experienced show dog. However like any sport it is important to be willing to learn, willing to watch and willing to practice. Watching others is extremely important, and attending training classes is invaluable. Practicing at home and socializing your dog with other people is key to success. Practice makes perfect. Just like signing up to play baseball for the first time, you attend practice sessions, you practice at home, you study the rules and after time you learn to understand and master baseball. Dog showing is no different. You may feel self-conscious and nervous the first couple of times but after a while you get to know what's happening.

Chapter 15 - Joining a breed club / all breeds club

Now you have started to show and you are slowly getting better and better and have developed the "Bug" for shows. It's now time to consider the next level. Like any amateur hobby shows are run and only successful due to the generous time of volunteers. Maybe consider joining your breed club or an All Breeds club. They are always looking for new helpers and it's a brilliant way of meeting wonderful like-minded people and forming truly friendships



Chapter 16 - How to enjoy your new hobby

You have found dog showing interesting, you have met many new people that now share your love of dogs. Like all public situations in life where there is obviously a competitive edge there can be extremely friendly people, the very serious people, the not so friendly people and those there just to enjoy having fun with their dog. Your personality as in most situations will gravitate to like-minded people. There will be times where you can hear something that doesn't please you. This is no different than been at a football game and someone bags your team or a player on your team. The difference is this is your dog and in your mind a part of your family. Don't take offence, don't get upset just remember this is a competitive sport and everyone likes to win. Be polite and just like any social interactions avoid these people in the future. Some peoples first show dog is a truly amazing one, other times may not be up to the task. Many start with a nice dog but through experience then get a wow one and continue in showing. It's a wonderful social day that can lead to some wonderful friendships. So I guess we will all see you at the next dog show. Just remember if showing isn't for you there are many, many different disciplines in dogs!

Dogs Victoria Bulla Grounds

BULLA EXHIBITION CENTRE

Address: 5 Uniting Lane, Bulla 3428

Dogs Victoria KCC Park

655 Westernport Hwy,

Skye 3977



www.dogsvictoria.org.au