

Beginner's Guide

Handling



What is Handling?

Handling is the skill and art of presentation of a dog that is taken into the show ring for the judge's assessment. A person who takes a dog into a show ring is called a Handler. Basic moves have been designed to test the handler in the show ring, these moves are called Patterns. Classes for Handling are decided by your age. The age groups are 8-11 years, 12-15 years and 16-24 years.

Beforehand

The best way to learn the art of Handling is to go to a breed dog show and watch the exhibitors, as most dog shows have some form of handling classes scheduled. Dog shows are held all over the country; schedules for these shows appear on the NZKC website and in the NZKC gazette. YKC events are also listed on the YKC web site www.ykc.org.nz

A Suitable Dog

If you are a newcomer to handling you do not need to own a dog to compete. First, go to some shows and watch the different breeds in the show rings to help you decide which breed interests you the most. You can use anyone's dog in the handling ring; you do not need to own the dog. You will however need to ask the owner of the dog for permission, you enter the handling class on the day of the show if you already own a dog and it is trained for the show ring you are well on the way to entering your first class, but still go and observe at shows.



Join a Club

Join your local club, but make sure that it is not just for Obedience. You will need ring craft. Local Ribbon Parades are an ideal opportunity to put into practice what you are practicing at home and at training. If you are unable to find a local Dog Club contact The NZKC or your local YKC regional committee.

Basic Training

Everything in the Handling ring has to be very smart, straight lines, sharp corners and neat presentations. When you are at home mark a show ring out on the grass, put a chair in the position you think the judge would stand, and then practice. You do not need a dog at this point, just lots of concentration. Hold the lead as if you have a dog and then practice the moves that you want to perfect. Before you start to move look in the direction that you are moving and walk straight to that point. Turn the

corner sharply and never let your body come between your dog and the judge. To make sure that this happens you will have to change sides with your dog, sometimes the dog will be on the right and at other times on the left. These moves must be completed smoothly without distraction to the dog or judge. When you have completed your pattern, your presentation of the dog should be made to the judge to assess the dog without having to move. This usually means you need to present your dog a short distance away from where the judge is standing, otherwise the judge will have to move to see the whole view of your dog. A rough guide is approximately the height of the judge away.



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At the show

Exercise your dog before the show. Arrive early and find out which ring you are going to be judged in, then find a space for yourself and your dog near to the ring. When you think that your class is nearly ready exercise and groom your dog. Finally get yourself ready so that you are waiting when your class is called. Listen very carefully to any announcements, you will only receive 3 calls from the ring steward for your number, make sure you reply clearly when your class and number are called.

In the ring

Before you can enter any Handling class you will need to learn what is expected from you in the show ring. The moves you will be asked to do are called Patterns and the basic patterns are a triangle, and straight up and down.

Around the Ring

This is used when you first enter the ring. At this time you are making your first impression on the judge. You will be expected to move around the ring and stand in line with other handlers ready to present your dog to the judge when requested.

The Triangle

Judges request this as the exhibit can be seen moving away, in profile and forward movement.

Straight up and down

This shows the dog moving away from and back to the judge. If these patterns are completed correctly the judges should not have to move.



Checklist for your first show

- ✓ Clean your dogs teeth
- ✓ Cut or file your dogs nails
- ✓ Make sure that your dog is groomed and clean
- ✓ Leave for the show in plenty of time

You will need

- ✓ Showing Clothes
- ✓ Ring clip for your ring number
- ✓ Hairbrush or Comb
- ✓ Shoes to show in
- ✓ Schedule
- ✓ Food and Drink
- ✓ A warm coat or sun hat and sunblock depending on season

Your dog will need

- ✓ Showing lead
- ✓ Water and Water bowl
- ✓ Towel
- ✓ Dog Blanket
- ✓ Cage (if used)
- ✓ Poo bags

Types of show

Ribbon Parade

A show held by clubs for all pure breed dogs, registered or non registered with the NZKC (excluding Champions and Grand Champions) an ideal training ground for young dogs and handlers

Open Shows

Open to all exhibitors' dogs must be registered with the NZKC.

Championship Shows

Open to all exhibitors and at which Challenge Certificates are offered. (Your dog must be registered with the NZKC)

Further Information

For further information please visit the NZKC website www.nzkc.org.nz or visit the YKC website www.ykc.org.nz

