

Would you like an obedient and well trained pet?

Why not try Obedience!

What is Obedience?

Competitive Obedience is exactly what you would imagine – obedient and well trained dogs having their abilities tested. General training classes like the Good Citizen Dog Scheme will teach you the basics and then if you decide you want to progress in this sport your dog could even end up doing such advanced exercises as scent discrimination. There are six levels of Obedience classes at shows and dogs start in the basic Pre-Beginners Class. By gaining a series of first prizes, dogs qualify through to Class C, the highest and most difficult. Exercises range from heelwork (on and off the lead), control exercises such as one minute sit and two minute down stays, to a scent discrimination exercise. There are numerous Obedience shows held in the UK.

Reasons why you should do Obedience

- You will have a well behaved and easily controlled pet.
- Impress your friends and family with your dog's new skills.
- Stimulation for your pet – dogs have big brains which need to be kept active.
- Meet new friends – there is a great social scene to be enjoyed.
- Your dog does not have to be a pedigree – all dogs can do Obedience.

All you need to know is:

- Your dog must be registered on the Kennel Club Breed Register or the Activity Register).
- Competitors taking part in any Kennel Club licensed event must familiarise themselves with the Kennel Club Rules and Regulations beforehand. The Obedience Regulations can be found in the Obedience Shows Regulations booklet which is available from the Kennel Club Publications Department.
- Dogs can start competing at six months of age.
- No previous experience necessary so request a list of Obedience Clubs today!

"Obedience training will give you and your dog years of enjoyment together. If you ever get to the dizzy heights of competing at and actually winning Crufts – Wow!! At the end of the day you always take home the best dog ever".

Sue Garner

Obedience: Top Tips

Obedience competitions consist of various different exercises such as:

Scent Discrimination

The handler will touch a cloth to put their scent on it. It is then hidden amongst other cloths which have not been touched by the handler. The dog will have to pick the correct cloth. Sounds easy, but has your dog got what it takes?

Stay

This is the ultimate test for some dogs. Can they remain in a down or sitting position for a full two minutes in Pre-Beginners, right up to ten minutes out of sight of the handler at the highest level?

Temperament Test

Whilst you stand next to your dog the judge will quietly approach and run his hand gently down the dog's back. If the dog shows any resentment or awkwardness you will be penalised.

Heelwork

Every dog owner should aim to have their dog walking easily and happily by their side. Obedience takes this basic skill to a whole new level. The top dogs stay glued to their owner's side no matter how many twists and turns the judge asks them to do.

INFORMATION BOX

For a free list of Obedience Clubs* in your county please contact the Kennel Club on **0870 606 6750 ext 226 or 212**, or complete a Further Information Request form available via the Kennel Club website.

Alternatively, show listings can be found in the **Kennel Gazette**. To purchase the Kennel Gazette please contact the Kennel Club publications department on **020 7518 1016**.

For an Obedience Shows Regulations booklet please call the Kennel Club publications department on **020 7518 1016**.

*Clubs are listed under county. Not all Clubs are registered with the Kennel Club. Where no clubs are registered in your chosen county, club listings closest to your address will be sent instead.

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www.thekennelclub.org.uk



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Are you ready for your first Obedience Show?

So, you have been attending Obedience classes and are now ready to enter your first Obedience show. Here's a run down of what you need to do next.

Entering the show

- Contact the Kennel Club for a list of shows in your area. We will send you listings of all the shows, with the telephone and address details of the club secretaries who are running them.
- When you've decided which show you want to enter, phone the secretary of the club and request a schedule (these are usually free of charge).
- Once you have the schedule you will have to select which class or classes you would like to enter and complete the entry form (which is located inside the schedule). You must enter the lowest class you are eligible for (even if your dog can do more advanced) and you can enter one other class too.
- Send your entry form and payment to the secretary before the closing date. Entries usually close at least one month before the show, so you will need to plan well in advance. Entries received after the closing date will not be accepted.

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Together we can make a dog's
life the healthiest and happiest
it can be.*
www.fitforfunction.org.uk

Before the show

- Groom and prepare your dog.
- Prepare a show bag containing your leads, treats, retrieve article (if needed), water, water bowls, poop scoop etc.
- Remember to take your show passes (if appropriate), schedule and directions.

At the show

- Arrive at the showground/venue in plenty of time to find your ring and Stay ring. Dogs and bitches usually have different Stay rings.
- Don't forget to book in at the ring, no more than an hour after the show starts, or you won't be able to compete.
- Keep an eye on the judging and don't miss your class or running order, if you have one.
- Speak to fellow exhibitors and learn more about Obedience.
- Look around the show and have a fantastic day!



INFORMATION BOX

Handling your dog

Attending your first Obedience show may cause your dog to behave differently than it does in training. Young dogs in particular can be bothered by crowds and if this is the case you can move a little way from other competitors and officials. Just remember it is a new experience for you and your dog and should you have any concerns there are always Stewards/Officials available to speak to.