

# Could your dog be a contender for Crufts?

## Why not try Dog Showing!

### What is Dog Showing?

Dog showing, or exhibiting as it is known, is the most popular canine activity in this country. At shows, the judge compares each dog against the official Kennel Club Breed Standard which is a blueprint for the perfect characteristics for that breed – covering every aspect of the dog, including health and temperament. The dogs which conform most closely to the Breed Standard will be the ones that receive the top places. The health of the dog is of paramount importance when making this decision – a dog must always be Fit for Function: Fit for Life! All pedigree dogs can take part in this unique hobby and you never know, you and your dog could even end up at the world's greatest dog show – Crufts!

### Reasons why you should show your dog

- You think your dog is the best in the world – will others agree?
- Enjoy a unique hobby and make lots of new friends.
- Your dog will love being the centre of attention.
- Learn new things about your breed.
- Develop that special bond with your dog.
- Your beloved dog could be Crufts Best in Show one day!

### All you need to know is:

- Your dog must be registered with the Kennel Club on the Breed Register or if your dog is from abroad it must have an Authority To Compete number before competing at any show.
- Only pedigree dogs can enter shows.
- Exhibitors taking part in any Kennel Club licensed event must familiarise themselves with the Kennel Club Rules and Regulations beforehand. The Show Regulations can be found in the Show Regulations booklet which is available from the Kennel Club Publications Department.
- We recommend that you attend some local dog shows before you start showing your dog, so you can get a feel for it and know what to expect.
- It would also be helpful if you can attend Ringcraft classes for specific training before entering a show.
- There are thousands of different types of Kennel Club licensed shows throughout the UK. They vary from Single Breed shows, Companion Dog shows, Open shows and Championship shows.
- Dogs can start competing at 6 months of age.
- No previous experience necessary so request a list of Ringcraft Clubs today!

### INFORMATION BOX

For a free list of **Ringcraft Clubs\*** or Shows 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 a **Show 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.

Visit our website  
[www.thekennelclub.org.uk](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk)

*"Our dog loves showing! When we pack our showbag ready to set off for a show her eyes light up and her tail wags like crazy. She knows we are in for a good day out together with lots of chances to meet our friends (hers and ours!) and, with any luck, we might come home with a rosette. But if not, it doesn't matter. As they say 'you always take the best dog home' – it might be a cliché, but it is true".*

**Heather and Ray Ablett**



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# Types of Shows:

## Single Breed Shows

As the name suggests, Single Breed shows have classes for just one breed of dog and are organised by a specific Breed Club. Such shows are likely to attract breed specialists who may have been involved in the breeding and showing of that particular breed for a number of years. These shows will provide you with a great opportunity to really learn about your breed from the experts.

## Companion Dog Shows

Companion Dog shows are fundraising events held throughout the year. The shows are mostly organised in conjunction with fetes, charity open days or similar events to raise money for charitable causes. The shows are very relaxed so they are ideal for people who are new to the show scene and offer the opportunity to practise with your dog in the show ring. Your dog does not have to be Kennel Club registered to enter a Companion Dog show.

## Open Shows

Some people prefer to start out on their show career by entering general Open Shows that schedule classes for many different breeds of dog. Such shows are run by general canine societies and are a good testing ground for new exhibitors. The shows are very popular and can attract many hundreds of competitors. At some shows you may even be able to qualify for Crufts!

## Championship Shows

These are the most prestigious shows where you may be able to qualify your dog to be shown at Crufts, and where Kennel Club Challenge Certificates (commonly known as CC's or tickets) are on offer. Challenge Certificates are the very highest award a dog can gain and they are awarded only to the very best dogs.

*Fit for Function: Fit for Life.  
Together we can make a  
dog's life the healthiest and  
happiest it can be.*  
[www.fitforfunction.org.uk](http://www.fitforfunction.org.uk)

# Are you ready for your first show?

So, you have been attending Ringcraft classes and are now ready to enter your first show. Here is 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 have 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).
- 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.

## Before the show

- Groom and prepare your dog.
- Prepare a show bag containing your grooming kit, leads, 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 bench and show ring (your bench and show ring will always be in close proximity), although it should be noted that allocated benches are only generally provided at Championship shows.
- It is advisable to find your bench immediately, as this is where your dog can relax when not competing and it is a good base from which to enjoy the show.
- Finish off any grooming and trimming (it is important that you familiarise yourself with the Kennel Club Regulations regarding preparing dogs for exhibition – this information should be included in the schedule).
- Keep an eye on the judging and do not miss your class!
- Speak to fellow exhibitors and learn more about showing.
- Look around the show and have a fantastic day!

## INFORMATION BOX

### Handling your dog

Attending your first dog 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.

## INFORMATION BOX

### What is Benching?

**Benching** is a raised pen allocated for each dog to stay in for the duration of the show. It is comfortable for the dogs and offers security to the owner, which is convenient should you be exhibiting other dogs on the same day.