



THE KENNEL CLUB
Making a difference for dogs

Information Guide

How to get involved in fun activities and competitions with your dog



www.thekennelclub.org.uk

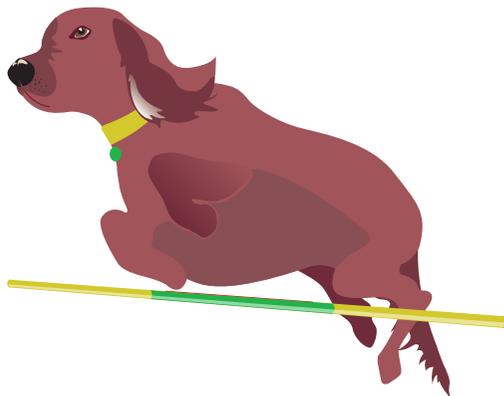
How to get involved in different activities with your dog

First - register your dog with the Kennel Club.

There are two types of registration you can choose.

You should find at least one of which will suit your dog:

- The Kennel Club Breed Register enables your dog to take part in all licensed activities including Field Trials. To be eligible for entry onto the breed register, both the sire and dam must also be eligible for entry onto this register, and be of the same breed.
- The Kennel Club Activity Register enables your pedigree and/or crossbreed dog(s) to compete in activities such as Agility, Flyball, Heelwork to Music, Obedience, Working Trials and Rally. However, it does not qualify for entry on the Kennel Club pedigree Breed Register, or its progeny, or to compete in Bloodhound Trials, Field Trials or Gundog Working Tests.
- If your dog is already registered on the Kennel Club Breed Register, it is not necessary to also apply for registration on the Activity Register, as it is already eligible to compete in all these activities.



Training

Before you start on any activity you need to make sure you have the best guidance possible. Whatever you and your dog need, there's a club out there that can help.



1000s of dog clubs across the UK offer everything you need to keep your dog trained, active and happy. Find your local training classes in all great canine hobbies outlined in this guide – join a club and there's a whole world of exciting fun to be had.



To find your local dog club call **01296 318540** or search online at www.findadogclub.org.uk

Agility

Many people think that Agility is the most fun of all the canine sports for both dogs and humans. It is fast, action packed and a great favourite with competitors and spectators alike. Your dog does not have to be a pedigree dog to compete in Agility, but it must be registered with the Kennel Club on the Breed Register, or the Activity Register.

Agility is where the animal's fitness and the handler's ability to train and direct the dog over and through certain obstacles are tested. There are 15 types of obstacles allowed under Kennel Club Regulations, ranging from a straightforward hurdle, to a long jump, tunnels, weaving poles, an "A" ramp and a see saw. Courses require a dog to traverse at least 10 obstacles but not more than 20.

Agility Tests are run against the clock. There is no set answer as to which breeds of dog are considered suitable for Agility. Any dog of sufficient size and fitness can compete and you will see from watching the various Agility competitions at Crufts that there is a wide variety of breeds and crossbreeds competing, each with differing build and size. Agility dogs are officially categorised in three different sizes, Small, Medium and Large, and there are seven grades of competition from one to seven, with beginners starting at grade one.



For further information, visit www.thekennelclub.org.uk/activities/agility/ or www.facebook.com/dogagility

How to get involved in different activities with your dog

Bloodhound Trials

The first Bloodhound Trials (known then as Field Trials) were held in 1898 in Yorkshire. At Trials, Bloodhounds hunt/track the human scent – this is known as hunting the clean boot. Bloodhounds are distinguished from other breeds by their extraordinary olfactory powers, which enable them to hunt entirely by air-borne scent.

Your dog must be pure bred Bloodhound and must be registered with the Kennel Club on the breed register.

The procedure is that a Runner leaves an article with his/her scent (known as the Smeller) attached to a flag at the start, then walks the Line on a route predetermined on a map. The Bloodhound is then required to follow the line, ignoring all distractions, and find and identify the Runner who waits at the end of the Line. There are four Stakes, starting with Novice (the Line is one mile long and is laid half an hour before the dog works) progressing to Senior (three miles long; two hours cold).



For further information, visit
www.thekennelclub.org.uk/activities/bloodhound-trials/

Dog Showing

The most popular part of dog competition is dog showing, as many have enjoyed the worlds greatest dog show – Crufts. At dog shows, the judge is responsible for comparing each dog to find the healthiest dog nearest the breed standard, ensuring they are Fit for Function.

Essentially the breed standard is a picture in words of how a breed should look and also details of the temperament. If you think that you may wish to start showing your dog, the first thing that you will need to think about is training – for both you and your dog. There are many clubs that specialise in Ringcraft classes and

can teach you how to prepare and present your dog so that it looks its best for the judge in the show ring. However, it may be beneficial to attend a local show before starting classes so that you can get a general idea of what happens at a show and also to talk to other exhibitors. It will also be an important part of socialising your dog and getting it used to interacting with different people and other dogs.

At shows, the judge must compare each dog with the breed standard to find the dog nearest to that ideal picture. However, it is not just the breed standard, but also the preparation and presentation of your dog so that it looks its best for the judge in the show ring. It is this aspect of dog showing that Ringcraft clubs can assist with. As for any competition, you and your dog must be trained and Ringcraft classes can teach you to achieve the necessary skills over a period of time.



How to get involved in different activities with your dog

Ringcraft clubs have a very sociable atmosphere. The ideal Ringcraft club should have classes, which start initially for the beginner, in particular the puppy before it goes into the show ring, through to classes for more experienced dogs and handlers in order to keep them in the peak of show training.

A great deal of time and effort goes into presenting a dog for exhibition at a show and even getting your dog to perform in the ring is a lot harder than it looks. A dog that only wants to slouch in the corner, or ambles around the ring ungracefully, will not impress the judge. It is important that you learn how to present your dog in the show ring to show off all its finer points.



For further information, visit www.thekennelclub.org.uk/activities/dog-showing/

Flyball

Flyball is a competitive team sport which is run on a knockout basis. Two teams of four dogs compete at the same time, each using a parallel 'racing lane' down which each dog in turn runs, clearing four hurdles in succession before triggering the flat fronted pedal on the Flyball box. A tennis ball is then released, which the dog must hold before returning over the hurdles to the start line. The first team to have its fourth dog across the finish line, with any part of the dog's body, wins the race. The best of three runs usually decides which team proceeds to the next heat, although this can vary.

Flyball is fast, action packed and a favourite of spectators and competitors.



For further information, visit www.thekennelclub.org.uk/activities/flyball/

Field Trials and Gundog Working Tests

Field Trials resemble as closely as possible a day's shooting in the field and working gundogs are expected to work on a variety of game from rabbits and hares to grouse and pheasants. The majority of Field Trials are held during the shooting season (12 August – 1 February). A few Spaniel trials on rabbits take place during the Spring and Summer with Pointers and Setters competing on Spring and Summer circuits of one or two weeks where no game is shot or retrieved. Breeds within the Gundog group fall into four categories: Retrievers (including Irish Water Spaniels), Spaniels, Pointers and Setters and breeds which Hunt, Point and Retrieve (HPRs).



Gundog Working Tests, usually held outside the Shooting season are competitions that simulate a day's shooting in the field using a variety of "dummies" which seek to assess, without game being shot, the working abilities of gundogs. Pointers and Setters are the only gundog category for which Gundog Working Tests are not held.

Many of the dogs that compete in these competitions demonstrate their function as working as well as companion dogs.



For further information, visit www.thekennelclub.org.uk/activities/field-trials-working-gundogs/



For further information, visit www.facebook.com/kcworkinggundogs

How to get involved in different activities with your dog

Heelwork to Music

One of the most exciting innovations in the world of dog training has been the introduction of Heelwork to Music. The title says it all – each competitor designs a routine to suit a piece of music of his or her choice of up to four minutes duration.

Training for this discipline is entirely by motivation and reward and the dogs just love performing; some to the extent that when they hear their music they become quite excited. Competitors are judged over three sections; each allocated a maximum of 10 marks:

Content and Flow of the programme

A variety of different moves that the dog has been taught to perform.

Accuracy and Team Performance execution of the programme

How accurately the moves were performed and the flow from one movement to the other. How the dog and handler work as a team and give an overall appearance of harmony.

Interpretation of the music

How the dog and handler work as a team and give an overall appearance of harmony. Self descriptive in that the moves and choreography should interpret the music.

As competitors and dogs become more experienced they can progress over levels, up to Advanced.



For further information, visit
www.thekennelclub.org.uk/activities/heelwork-to-music/

Rally

Rally (or 'Rally O' in the USA) is a canine sport derived from the heelwork elements of competitive Obedience. It differs from Obedience primarily in that competitors and dogs attempt a pre-set course along which signs are placed at up to 15 stations (Level 1) along the course, requiring them to perform one of around 50 different preset exercises. The selection of exercises and design of course is at the judge's discretion. Each individual round is performed at a 'brisk pace' and takes around three minutes. There is no direction from the judge or steward as in Obedience; the signs are all the guidance competitors receive. At Level 1, the lowest level, dogs compete on lead and a loose lead is emphasised. The handler may give verbal commands and encouragement throughout as necessary.

More advanced Levels require dogs to compete off lead. Physical or harsh verbal correction is strictly penalised.



For further information, visit
www.thekennelclub.org.uk/activities/rally/

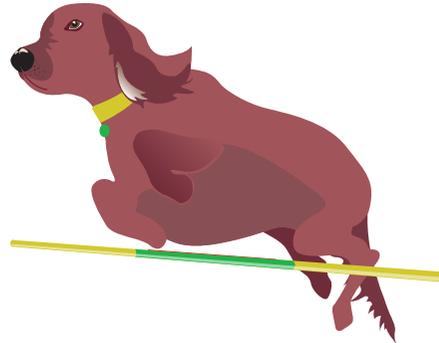


How to get involved in different activities with your dog

Obedience

After completing a basic pet Obedience course, you may want to try your hand at more advanced Obedience activities by participating in competitive Obedience competitions. There are seven Standard classes available

at shows of which two may be entered, as well as one additional class if the competition allows. Each class contains a set of exercises which the judge will ask you and your dog to perform. The exercises range from moving around the ring with your dog at heel (on and off the lead), to a recall, and control exercises such as a one minute sit and a two minute down stay, up to a ten minute out of sight down stay.



For further information, visit www.thekennelclub.org.uk/activities/obedience/

Obreedience

The purpose of Obreedience is to encourage more breeds to 'have a go' at some of the tests associated with competitive obedience but in a less formal competitive environment.

The Obreedience display was successfully introduced to Crufts in 2015 with the English Shetland Sheepdog team emerging as eventual champions. Obreedience is a team event and showcases the talents of each breed through a series of fun exercises and it is perfect for all ages and abilities.

It mixes the best aspects of obedience with the camaraderie found amongst breed enthusiasts, each Obreedience team must comprise of four handlers and four dogs of the same breed who take part in two rounds of competition including a round of heelwork performed together as a group and then four set exercises including a retrieve, a 'send to bed', commanding the dog to stop, and a scent exercise.

This year there were four qualifying heats with teams collecting points from 1st to 10th in each heat and the top 10 teams with the most points from all four heats are invited to compete in the final at Crufts.



For further information, visit www.thekennelclub.org.uk/events/obreedience/

Working Trials

Working Trials are the civilian equivalent of police work, however for the competitor it is purely for competition. All breeds and crossbreeds can take part and must be registered on the Breed or Activity register, but Working Trials are physically demanding so both the dog and owner must be physically fit.

The exercises are divided into three sections:

Nosework

The dog follows a 'track' which is laid by a 'tracklayer' (who is a stranger to the dog) walking a set 'pattern'. The track is approximately half a mile long and laid on grassland, corn, ploughed field or heathland, with each competitor working on similar terrain.

How to get involved in different activities with your dog

As the dog follows the track it has to seek out and recover articles placed along the track by the tracklayer. The other component of nosework is a 'search' where the dog has to search for and retrieve articles placed in a marked area.

Agility

Consisting of a three foot hurdle, six foot scale and nine foot long jump. In the Companion Dog (CD) and Utility Dog (UD) stakes, the height and length is reduced pro rata for smaller dogs.

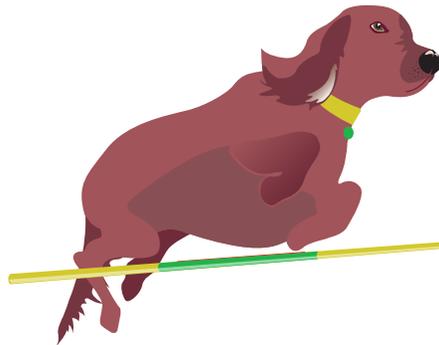
Control

Consisting of heelwork, sendaway, retrieving a dumbbell, down stay, steadiness to gunshot and speak on command.

Dogs compete in ascending levels called 'stakes'. From the lowest stake, Companion Dog (CD), through Utility Dog (UD) and Working Dog (WD) to Tracking Dog (TD) and Patrol Dog (PD) being at the very top.



For further information, visit www.thekennelclub.org.uk/activities/working-trials/



Find a Dog Club

Whatever you and your dog need, there's a club out there that can help. Finding your local training classes, finding out more about your breed, or getting involved in great canine hobbies like Agility, Heelwork to Music or Obedience has never been simpler.



The Find A Dog Club service allows you to search our database of over 3000 clubs. As clubs associated with the Kennel Club they must abide by strict codes of conduct, must be well managed and in line with Kennel Club principles of fairness and integrity. Above all, each of these clubs supports the Kennel Club's commitment to the health and welfare of dogs. Join a club and there's a whole world of exciting doggy fun to be had.

! IMPORTANT

To get your copy of Kennel Club Regulations please visit www.thekennelclubshop.org.uk and click on the publications page to obtain the full list. Regulation booklets are available for Agility, Bloodhound Trials, Dog Showing, Field Trials and Gundog Working Tests, Flyball, Heelwork to Music, Obedience, Rally, or Working Trials.

Unleash your dog's potential



The Kennel Club produces a Dog Activities pack which includes vital information on the activities you are interested in taking up plus a list of your local clubs. So why not unleash your dog's potential and request your pack and start enjoying some great days out with your dog?



email cat@thekennelclub.org.uk, visit www.thekennelclub.org.uk/activities or call 01296 318540

There are so many different fun events, activities and competitions you can enjoy with your dog, giving you a great opportunity to meet fellow dog lovers and have lots of fun with your pet. The Kennel Club organises and licenses some great days out for all dogs and their owners covering a range of different activities, some of which are outlined in this leaflet.



NEW WEBSITE!

From April it will be compulsory for all dogs to be microchipped



CHIP IT. CHECK IT.

PROVIDES YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COMPULSORY MICROCHIPPING INCLUDING HELPFUL DOWNLOADS AND VIDEOS

For more info visit www.chipitcheckit.co.uk



THE KENNEL CLUB

Clarges Street, London W1J 8AB
Telephone 01296 318540

www.thekennelclub.org.uk

Join the conversation:

[twitter@kclovesdogs](https://twitter.com/kclovesdogs) facebook.com/kclovesdogs





THE KENNEL CLUB

Making a difference for dogs

The Kennel Club works to protect and promote the health and welfare of all dogs in the UK. We want happy, healthy dogs living long lives with responsible owners. All profits from the organisation go straight into funding the many programmes run in the best interest of dogs and dog owners and to support the Kennel Club Charitable Trust to re-invest into a wide variety of welfare and health programmes.

Anyone can register their dog with the Kennel Club. By registering you will demonstrate your commitment to your dog's well-being and to the health and welfare of all dogs. You can register online today at www.thekennelclub.org.uk/dogregistration.

Whatever your dog's needs, the Kennel Club is here to help and support you.

Find out more by contacting us on **01296 318540**, or visit our website at www.thekennelclub.org.uk to find out more about the wonderful world of dogs.

Additional guides on a wide range of subjects are also available to download from our website at www.thekennelclub.org.uk:

- Asthma and your dog
- Breeding for health
- Breeding from your dogs
- Choosing and bringing home the right dog for you
- Common canine poisons in the house and garden
- DNA profiling and parentage analysis services
- Do you know dog law?
- Do you know how to look after your dog in its senior years?
- How to get started with dog training
- How to register your dog with the Kennel Club
- Introducing dogs to children or babies
- Kennel Club endorsements
- Managing your dog's weight
- Moving house with your dog
- Pet Insurance Guide for dog owners
- Puppy Socialisation
- Road travel with your dog
- So you are thinking of working with dogs?
- Thinking of showing your dog in the UK?
- Travelling abroad with your dog
- Why should I Microchip my pet?