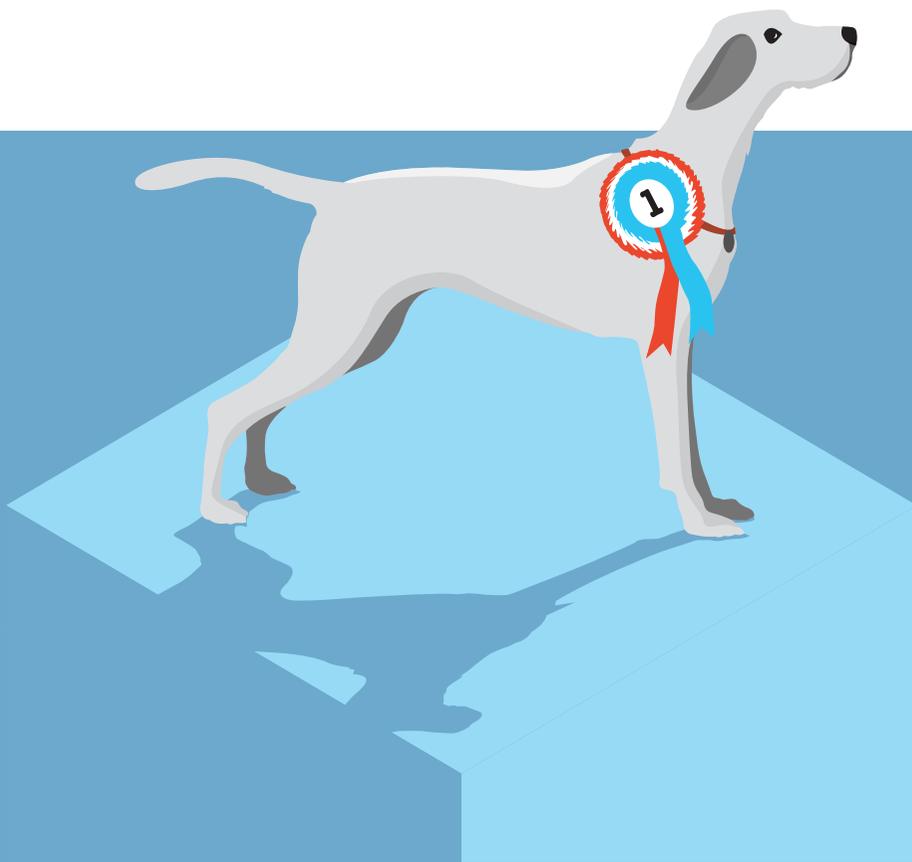




**THE KENNEL CLUB**  
*Making a difference for dogs*

Information Guide

# Thinking of showing your dog in the UK?



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

## Thinking of showing your dog in the UK?

Dog showing is a great British pastime that continues to attract a large following and has come a long way since the first organised dog show was held in Newcastle-on-Tyne, England in 1859. Shortly after in 1873, the Kennel Club was founded and began to license dog shows and under their guidance the show scene really started to take off.

Today, the Kennel Club licenses some 5,000 dog shows a year and many thousands of exhibitors across the world enjoy showing their pedigree dogs. With the relaxation of quarantine in many countries, this fun pastime has become increasingly popular with exhibitors and their dogs travelling to shows in many parts of the world.

The main purpose of dog shows is to allow breeders and others to compete with their dogs and to measure the progress that is being made in the breeding of their pedigree canine. In the early days, the emphasis was on the working abilities of the breeds and on the temperament, shape and soundness that best suited the dogs for the work that they were then expected to do.

The Kennel Club's Fit for Function: Fit for Life campaign promotes the importance of these abilities, but also emphasises health. As a result, dog shows are nowadays being used more and more as a lever for positive change in the breeding of happy, healthy pedigree dogs.

Of course, the dog show world is not all serious. It is a place for friends from all walks of life, but with a similar interest in their favourite breed, to have fun and to meet and participate in a competitive yet friendly atmosphere. Crufts, for which every dog has had to qualify in advance, is the best known dog show in the UK and probably even in the world. But it is just one of many thousands of shows held across the UK and around the world each year.



## Welfare of your dog

Dog welfare is of primary concern to the Kennel Club. When deciding whether you want to travel to the UK to show your dog, you really need to decide whether it is in your dog's best interest to travel a great distance to compete in the UK. This must be foremost in your mind, rather than the thought of achieving success in the show ring!

If you are certain that the welfare of your dog will not be compromised when travelling to the UK, then the following information should be useful to you.



- Guidelines, rules and regulations relating to competing with a dog at Kennel Club licensed events in the UK can be found in the schedules of the events in question, which are generally available from the secretary of the club or society. More detailed information can be found in the Kennel Club Year Book, which is available from the Kennel Club Publications Department.



Call **01296 318540** or visit  
**[www.thekennelclubshop.org.uk](http://www.thekennelclubshop.org.uk)**  
to order your copy.

- Competitors particularly need to make themselves aware of the Kennel Club rules regarding double handling, grooming and fouling. Certain welfare issues also need to be taken into account, such as dogs left in vehicles on hot days.
- A dog which has been docked after 6 April 2007 cannot be shown at shows in England.
- Dogs with cropped ears are not eligible to compete at any Kennel Club licensed event.
- Before you may show your dog in the UK, you will need to apply for an ATC number from the Kennel Club. Forms can be obtained direct from the Kennel Club by mail, or can be downloaded from the Kennel Club website. You may not enter any competitions in the UK until you have received your ATC number, and this number must be quoted on all entry forms. Failure to do so may result in your entry form being returned.

**Please note; the rules regarding obtaining an Authority to Compete (ATC) number do not apply to exhibitors or competitors from the Republic of Ireland or the Channel Islands.**

- All ATC applications must be submitted with a three-generation pedigree for the dog (a photocopy is acceptable) issued by the overseas kennel club with which the dog is registered, and with which the Kennel Club (UK) has a reciprocal agreement, or which has membership of the FCI. The pedigree must show the name of the owner of the dog (the same as the person applying for the ATC). If the correct ownership is not shown on the pedigree, the Kennel Club will need to receive a copy of the registration/transfer document to show that the person applying for the ATC owns the dog.
- On acceptance, the owner of the dog will receive an ATC number which, as well as being quoted on all entry forms, must also be quoted on all correspondence. The ATC number lasts for the lifetime of the dog.
- N.B. Dogs registered overseas, which were originally registered with the Kennel Club, do not require an ATC number as the Kennel Club already has the information needed. Owners of these dogs should enter the dog's original Kennel Club registration number in place of the ATC number on all entry forms.
- For registration purposes, the overseas Champion title of the home country will be the only one recorded, along with any recognised Irish Kennel Club titles. If any other overseas titles exists and where the overseas country test is considered to be of a similar standard to that existing, such titles will only be added, if the relevant sub committee makes a recommendation of acceptance to the General Committee.
- It is the exhibitor's responsibility to ensure that their dogs are eligible for the class that they have entered, especially when calculating wins which count towards the title of Champion
- Prior to exhibition, permission must be sought from the General Committee of the Kennel Club to exhibit any dog which has undergone an operation to alter its natural conformation. Dogs that have been spayed or castrated are permitted



to be exhibited at Kennel Club licensed events. However, the owner of the dog must inform the Kennel Club, prior to exhibition, of the date of the operation, the name of the veterinary surgeon and the practice where the operation was carried out.

- Please note that no substance that alters the natural colour, texture or body of the coat may be present in the dog's coat for any purpose at any time during the show. No substance that alters the natural colour of any external part of the dog may be present on the dog for any purpose at any time during the show. Any other substance (other than water), which may be used in the preparation of a dog for exhibition, must not be allowed to remain in the coat or on any other part of the dog at the time of exhibition.
- Overseas exhibitors are reminded that the Kennel Club has the jurisdiction to investigate, and if necessary to penalise, any breaches of Kennel Club regulations or complaints made under Rule A42.
- It is possible to purchase Individual Regulation Booklets for each of the different disciplines.



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- The Activity Register enables your pedigree and/or crossbreed dog(s) to compete in activities such as Agility, Flyball, Heelwork to Music, Obedience and Working Trails. However, it does not qualify for entry on the Kennel Club pedigree breed register, or its progeny, or to compete in Field Trails 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. If both parents of your dog are on the breed register you should apply to have your dog added to the breed register.



A list of breeds eligible for entry in UK licenced events can be viewed at **[www.thekennelclub.org.uk/item/210](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/item/210)**.

## **The Kennel Club Code of Conduct - what we and your fellow exhibitor expect of you (Kennel Club Regulation F3 refers)**

The Kennel Club Code of Conduct has been developed to set out the Kennel Club's expectation for all those taking part in or attending events under its jurisdiction.

These are not exhaustive and should be read in conjunction with relevant regulations as listed in the Kennel Club Year Book. A breach of these provisions may be referred to the General Committee for disciplinary action under Kennel Club Rules and Regulations.

### **People**

- Conduct - participants have a duty both to their dogs and to others to make licensed events friendly and welcoming, and are expected to be co-operative and above all create a safe environment for all to enjoy their time at licensed events.
- Sportsmanship - participants should conduct themselves at all times in an appropriate fashion and should display good manners and respect towards other participants, show officials and to the judges.
- Any verbal communication with a judge should take place after judging has taken place and must be conducted in a polite and professional manner.
- Abusive or aggressive behaviour towards anyone at the show - including the judge, other participants, show management or other officials - will not be tolerated under any circumstances (further information appears later in this publication regarding harassment).
- Do not interfere with any dog whilst it is being judged.
- It is illegal and therefore not permitted to smoke anywhere in the halls.
- Mobile phones should be turned off whilst exhibiting or whilst your dog is under test.
- If you have children, do not allow them to touch any dogs unless you have the permission of the owner for them to do so. Be aware of where your children are, and what they are doing, at all times. Take special care around benching areas where dogs may react to an unexpected approach.

## Dogs

- All dogs must be of the correct temperament to enable the judge to examine it, independently of the exhibitor's assistance.
- Dogs with aggressive tendencies must not be exhibited.
- Sparring between dogs in the ring is not allowed.

Please note the following regulations apply to exhibiting in the UK.

- *The welfare of all dogs is of paramount importance. Exhibits should not be left unattended on benches, in cages or crates for lengthy periods without proper exercise and care.*
- *Dogs must not be left in vehicles on warm or hot days.*
- *Dogs are not permitted to wear muzzles of any kind whilst being judged.*
- *Attraction of a dog from outside the ring is not permitted in the UK. (Kennel Club Show Regulation F(1)17.h. refers).*
- *Exhibitors must ensure that they clean up after their dog if their dog fouls in a public place. (Kennel Club Show Regulation F.13. refers).*
- *The mating of dogs within the precincts of the show is not permitted. The mating of bitches within the precincts of the show is not permitted. (Kennel Club Show Regulation F(1)14 refers).*
- *Any verbal communication with a judge should take place after judging has taken place and must be conducted in a polite and professional manner.*
- *Abusive or aggressive behaviour towards the judge or other exhibitors will not be tolerated under any circumstances.*
- *Exhibitors must not wear any type of identification of themselves or their dogs whilst showing their dogs. (Regulation F(1)17.g. refers).*

It is important to remember that any breach of Kennel Club Regulations may result in the matter being referred to the Kennel Club Committee for disciplinary action.



## **Harassment – a zero tolerance approach**

No-one should be subject to intimidation or made to feel alarmed or distressed or put in fear of reprisal. Harassment is a criminal offence. To that end the Kennel Club adopts a zero tolerance towards all type of harassment activity.

Harassment may be defined as causing alarm, distress and anxiety and fear of physical violence or other threat, offensive statements, verbal abuse and threats. Conduct may include speech, obstruction and so on. As such conduct may involve a criminal offence the police may be involved and it may be that the Kennel Club will defer any action pending the outcome of such investigation and/or prosecution.

It goes without saying that the Kennel Club expects courtesy and co-operation to be shown towards all staff and organisers at any Kennel Club licensed event.

Whilst the pressures and tensions which arise at competitive level are understood, any aggression or abuse towards those who are simply undertaking their jobs for the benefit and interest of the exhibitor/competitor and the audience and ultimately the dog itself cannot be tolerated.



### **What you need to do before entering the UK:**

- Before you may enter the UK with your dog, you will need to comply with strict regulations laid down by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA). An outline of these regulations is given below, although the Kennel Club advises that you check the DEFRA website for further information.

## Pet Travel Scheme

The Pet Travel Scheme came into force in 2000 as a control measure to prevent rabies, certain tick-bourne diseases and tapeworm from entering the UK via the importation of pets. Before pets can enter the UK under the scheme they must meet certain animal health requirements. The Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs changed the scheme in June 2011 which was effective as of January 1st 2012.

These changes include:

- reducing the length of time after vaccination that a dog may enter or return to the UK from six months to 21 days
- the removal of the requirement to blood test the dog before travel
- the removal of the need to have the dog treated for ticks
- change in requirement for tapeworms treatment to be administered 24hrs - 5days before travel and certified by a vet.

Travel to the UK from certain countries outside the EU will require a blood test to be carried out after vaccination and a further waiting time of three months from the time of the blood test, instead of the previous six months after the blood test.



Full details of the changes to the Pet Travel Scheme are as follows:

### Entry rules for pets entering the UK from the EU and listed non-EU countries

What has to be done	From 1 January 2012
Microchip	Yes
Rabies vaccination	Yes
Blood test	No
Pre-entry waiting period	Yes
Length of waiting period	21 days after vaccination
Tick treatment	No
Tapeworm treatment	Yes (24 hours - 5 days/120 hours) before embarkation to UK)

### Entry rules for pets entering the UK from unlisted non-EU countries

What has to be done	From 1 January 2012
Microchip	Yes
Rabies vaccination	Yes (sample to be taken at least 30 days after vaccination)
Blood test	No
Pre-entry waiting period	Yes
Length of waiting period	3 months from date of blood sample
Tick treatment	No
Tapeworm treatment	Yes (24 hours - 5 days/120 hours) before embarkation to UK)

## Travelling to the UK with your dog

The Kennel Club welcomes overseas dogs competing at UK licensed events, especially Crufts, but bringing your dog into the UK takes some organisation. Of course you will need to comply with all the regulations required for the Pet Travel Scheme, but there are many other regulations that require consideration, from travelling safely in a car to travelling on planes or ferries. These regulations can change on a regular basis, so it is wise to check before you leave. Check whether your dog can travel with the airline and ferry company you wish to use. You can travel by Eurotunnel but NOT by Eurostar (assistance dogs only).

### Entering the UK:

- The routes allowing entry into the UK are varied, and not all airlines and ports are a part of the Pet Travel Scheme. Therefore it is advisable to contact DEFRA for full details on the applicable routes and airlines.
- All the necessary checks should be made before a dog enters the UK, except for those dogs flying into the UK, whose documentation will be checked on arrival at the airport.
- A full list of the Pet Travel Scheme approved countries can be obtained from the DEFRA website.

### Eurotunnel is the Kennel Club's official train carrier.

Pets are part of the family and are treated them like any other passenger.



### Air travel with your dog

- When flying into the UK, ensure that the airport has the facilities to cater for dogs entering the UK under the Pet Passport Scheme - not all airports in Britain have signed up to the Scheme.
- Ensure that your dog has sufficient water in its flying crate and that this will be checked by the airport staff before your dog is loaded onto the aircraft and at any stop-overs.
- On arrival in the UK, Customs may request that you give a value for your dog. Although viewed by Customs as imported 'goods', you should not overstate the value of your dog since this attracts tax.

### Staying in the UK

- Once in the UK, be aware that not all hotels will accept dogs. If they do, they may make an additional charge for its stay.
- Transport your dog safely, preferably by using a special dog guard, dog cage or canine harness. Always ensure your dog has plenty of ventilation and shade in a car and that fresh drinking water is always readily available.
- Never leave your dog unattended in a car for long periods of time, and NEVER in hot weather.



Be Dog Friendly, supported by Dog Friendly, is a campaign run by the Kennel Club which aims to reward and encourage businesses and public places across the UK to adopt a dog friendly attitude towards the nation's 8 million dogs. Search through over 32,000 businesses and public places listed on the Dog Friendly website to find places you can go with your dog across the UK and Europe.



To search for dog friendly places in the UK visit [www.dogfriendly.co.uk](http://www.dogfriendly.co.uk) to find out more.

## Dog laws in the UK

Please be aware of dog laws in the UK.

Further relevant information on dog law and travelling with your dog in the UK can be obtained by reading the Kennel Club Information Guides entitled *Do you know dog law?* and *Road travel with your dog*, which are available to download from the Kennel Club website.



All Kennel Club Information Guides are available to download at [www.doginformation.org.uk](http://www.doginformation.org.uk)

## COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 388/2010

This EU Regulation requires anyone wishing to travel in Europe with more than five pet dogs at any one time to undergo veterinary checks on each dog. This examination must take place less than 24 hours before the dogs are scheduled to travel.

## Insurance

It is strongly advised that you consider travel insurance which will cover you and your pet for emergency overseas veterinary costs, kennelling fees and third party liability.



Visit [www.thekennelclub.org.uk](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk)  
to find out more



**A TRAINED DOG IS A HAPPY DOG WITH  
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**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](http://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](http://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](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk):**

- Breeding for health
- Breeding from your dogs
- Choosing and bringing home the right dog for you
- Common canine poisons in the house and garden
- Do you know dog law?
- Do you know how to look after your dog in its senior years?
- How to get involved in fun activities and competitions with your dog
- 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?
- Travelling abroad with your dog
- Why should I Microchip my pet?