

# Beginner's guide to... obedience



Would you like an obedient and well trained pet? Then obedience is for you!

## What is obedience?

Competitive obedience is exactly what you would imagine – obedient and well trained dogs having their abilities tested. General training classes will teach you the basics and then if you decide you want to progress in this activity your dog could even end up doing such advanced exercises as scent discrimination. There are seven levels of obedience classes at shows and dogs start in the basic introductory 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 recall, sendaway and distant control, to a retriever and a scent discrimination exercise. There are numerous obedience shows held in the UK.

## Why should you take part in 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

- Your dog must be registered with us on the 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 booklet is available from our publications department
- Dogs can start competing at six months of age
- No previous experience is necessary so use our **'Find a Dog Club'** service today
- Make sure you buy an Obedience Record Book in which to record all your competition results and points

**Suitable for both Pedigree and Crossbreed dogs**

**Clubs all over the UK**

## 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 help.

Register your dog on the Activity Register using form 5 online at [thekennelclub.org.uk/activityregister](http://thekennelclub.org.uk/activityregister)



**Get started today!**

To find a list of clubs, training classes or competitions near you, use the **'Find a Club'** and **'Find a Show'** services available on [thekennelclub.org.uk](http://thekennelclub.org.uk)

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## 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?



### Sendaway

The dog is sent to a designated place within the ring, it must drop to the down, smartly, on command from the handler. The dog must then wait until called to heel. The sendaway area is usually set out by markers and the judge will stipulate where the dog must stop within this section.



### 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.



## Are you ready for your first obedience competition?

Visit [thekennelclub.org.uk/obedience](https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/obedience) or email [obedience@thekennelclub.org.uk](mailto:obedience@thekennelclub.org.uk) to find all you need to know about entering shows and the next steps to becoming an obedience champion!

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