



So you want to show your dog

The following pages contain some useful information for new exhibitors including many of the 'unwritten rules' to remember when showing your dog.

This guide should be read in conjunction with the Rules and Regulation of the Tasmanian Canine Association (available for download on their website). Please make yourself familiar with these Rules and Regulations.

Your dog must be ANKC registered and you must be a member of Tasmanian Canine Association (TCA) to enter in a dog show.

All dog shows in Tasmania are advertised in the TCA gazette. Most clubs now offer online entries through Show Manager. If you are entering your dog in shows you will either need to enter online or send in a postal entry. All postal entries must be on the official entry forms available through TCA.

Entering shows

- Anyone who handles your dog in the ring must be a TCA member (Except a junior who is not the registered owner of a dog can compete as long as one parent is a TCA member and the junior is a member of a TCA affiliated club)
- Your dog must be on full ANKC registration (Even neuter and their registration must have been updated showing them as neuter) Your dog's registration number and your membership number is printed on the dogs registration certificate. Keep it in a safe place!
- Use more than one form if entering your dog in more than one class ie sweepstakes , property classes
- If the club is offering online entries you will need to set up an account with the provider (ie Showmanager). Once you have entered your dog's details into the online system they do not have to be entered again. It is best to have the dog's registration certificate when you are putting it's information into the system so that no mistakes are made.
- If the club does not offer online entry or if you prefer to submit a paper entry you can include a stamped, return addressed envelope for the return of your exhibitor number disc. On the return addressed envelope write what show you are entering.

Allow enough time when posting entries so that they make it to the show secretary on time. Check envelope when it returns to make sure the club hasn't advised of a change of judge, or venue or time etc. Make sure you take the enclosed numbers, car passes, receipt etc with you to the show.

If handwriting entry forms make sure you print all details clearly

- You can only enter one class per dog (with the exception of sweepstakes and special classes)

- Event Managers/Show Secretaries contact details appear on the show schedule but this DOES NOT mean 24/7 availability. Show Secretaries/Managers are usually volunteers and have a life to.

Equipment to take with you

- A crate is handy so that you can let your dog relax
- If your dog is to be tied up at the show it must be tied up with a fixed collar and lead that can't be chewed through (ie chain)
- A suitable lead for showing. Halters and harnesses are not allowed in the ring without prior permission
- Water for you and your dog

When you get to the show check your entry against the catalogue well before your group starts (double check the right dog is entered and in the correct class). It is the exhibitor's responsibility to ensure that their entry has been correctly catalogued, errors do happen as we are all human.

Clothing in the ring

- Branded clothing (Advance, Royal Canin, Kennel Name) should not be worn in the ring
- Sunglasses and hats, hats are fine to wear in the ring, but it is polite that you take your sunglasses off before going in the ring
- Appropriate clothing should be worn. It should be comfortable, easy to move in, skirts should be of suitable length if you have to bend over, and make sure your top isn't showing too much when you bend over! You can dress to suit your breed too; it is quite ok to show a gundog in smart country attire. Comfortable shoes are a must and no thongs.
- Raincoats are allowed in the ring; make sure your exhibit number is displayed on the outside of your raincoat.
- You must wear the dog's exhibit number every time you enter the ring with your dog. It is usual to wear your exhibit number on your left upper arm or pinned to the left side of your chest. It must be clearly visible at all times when you are in the ring.

In the assembly area

- Know what your dog is doing at all times, do not stand with friends talking not paying attention to what your dog is doing
- Keep listening to what the steward (The steward is the person, usually with a clipboard, organising the dogs in and out of the ring for the judge) is saying and keep an eye on which breed is in the ring
- If your bitch is in season tell people near you that she is in season so they can also keep their dogs away from yours
- Giving your number to the steward
 - o Advise the steward of your dog's number when the breed in front of you is in the ring. Tell the steward at the same time if any of the dogs you entered are absent.
- Marking a dog absent
 - o The steward must not mark your dog absent unless you are the owner and provide the number when advising the steward it is absent
- Answering your call

- Pay attention for when the steward calls your number, when it is called answer 'Yes' in a clearly heard voice.
- The steward will call your number three times only. If you do not answer your call on the third call you will be marked absent. This is final and you cannot show your dog in the show. The Steward cannot call you absent until the last dog in the class before you has been judged and placed.
- Lining up to go in the ring
 - Check that you are wearing the correct number for the dog
 - Once you have answered your call the breed before you is almost finished judging you will be called to line up ready to enter the ring. Make sure you give the exhibitors exiting the ring room to get past you and line up in number order in the ring entrance. Once you are ready to go the steward will hand you over to the judge. Sometimes the steward will tell you what to do, other times the judge will tell you.
 - Make sure before entering the ring that the correct class has been called. Once you exhibit in the wrong class your dog will be disqualified.
- Crates/trolleys in the assembly area
 - Crates/Trolley need to be removed from the assembly area as soon as your breed has finished.
 - Don't put your dog near a walk way or the ring entrance if it is likely to lunge and bark at other dogs going past
 - Don't walk you dog too close to other's people's crates, it may upset their dogs and your dog may get a fright

In the ring

- Be a good sport, smile, relax and enjoy yourself
- When to enter the ring
 - Listen for instructions from the steward and judge and if not sure ask them to repeat their instructions. Watch a few exhibitors before your turn, but remember to watch more than one just in case the one you are watching did it wrong.
- While you are being judged
 - what to say and what not to say (Don't tell the judge about your dogs wins, pedigree etc)
 - Keep an eye on what the judge is doing and where he is standing
 - Keep your straight lines straight....a Triangle can quickly become an oval
 - Remember to thank the judge even if you don't win, and congratulate the winner if it isn't you
 - Smile!
- What to do when moving ahead of/behind slower faster dog?
 - If the dog in front of you is moving slower than you, give it plenty of room before you enter the ring, if you catch it up while gaiting your dog, move your dog to the outside of the slower dog if there is room. Teach your dog to gait at different speeds so that if you do have to slow down for a slower dog that you can't get around, you will still be able to move your dog nicely.
 - If you have a faster dog in front of you, don't try to keep up, just gait your dogs at the speed that best suits it.

- If you are moving slower than the other dogs in the ring, move to the inside of the ring allowing the other exhibitors room to get around you on the outside.
- Food and toys are allowed in the ring, but throwing or dropping them isn't. Be mindful when using squeaky toys in the ring that you are not upsetting the other exhibitor's dogs. If you believe another exhibitor or spectator is deliberately throwing or squeaking toy to upset your dogs, you are within your rights to ask the steward to tell them to stop. This applies to both in and outside the ring.
- If you are second in your class, keep your eye on the judging, the dog which beat you might get the Challenge and you will have to go back in to the ring for reserve challenge.
- If possible stay ringside until the very last class of the group and so that you can applaud the judge (the steward usually asks for exhibitors to show their appreciation in the usual way ...which means clapping!)
- At this point in time it is optional to return for your Class in Group, if you choose not to return for your Class in Group you must let the steward know. **BUT** if you win a Class in Group award you are required to stay to compete in the Class in Show awards at the end of the day, if you do not you will be reported to the TCA by the event manager and will lose any points/awards you achieved that day.
- Don't linger around the entrance and exit to the rings once your classes are finished

NON AWARDING and REFUSING CHALLENGE - what are these, and what is the difference between them?

- Dogs can be refused challenge, or be non awarded
- If a dog is **refused challenge**, it doesn't get any points, but can still go on to compete for class in group etc.
- If a dog is **non awarded**, it cannot participate further in that show. The reasons for dogs being non awarded can be varied, and sometimes in contradiction to the standard. Reasons I have heard for non awarding dogs are: dog too small, dog too big, dog not 'typey' enough, dog is lacking coat, dog not able to be judged.

A judge may elect to inform an exhibitor that she/he intends to **non award** a dog and give the exhibitor the opportunity to withdraw the dog from competition instead of being non awarded.

A **non award** or a refused challenge only affects the results of that one show.

For example say 'Joey' is the only Labrador entered in the show, and he is in Puppy. He is awarded Puppy of Breed, but if he is then **refused challenge**, he doesn't get Dog Challenge, nor BOB, despite being the only Labrador entered. He *is* allowed to compete for Puppy in Group though, as he was awarded Puppy of Breed. An example of when a challenge may be refused is when the judge believes the dog to be too young.

Working out how long each group will take

- The general rule of thumb is to allow 1 ½ minutes for each dog before you in the ring. So if there are 10 dogs before you in your group and 30 dogs in the group that is on before you, you would allow about an hour. Remember to allow for absentees, slow judges, fast judges, morning tea and lunch breaks.

- There will be a timetable at the office on the day; this will show approximate times that each breed will be judged. Remember that this is approximate only.

If you have won a challenge or best of breed, remember to collect before you leave the grounds.

Some other things to consider:

Enjoy yourself

It is ok to tell the Steward and the Judge that you are a new exhibitor, most will be more than happy to help you (and ease any nerves)

When we are nervous our movements usually speed up, so when in the ring feeling nervous, slow your movements down slightly

If you are really nervous chew some mint gum. Your dog can pick up on your nervousness and the gum helps mask your nervous pheromones. Rescue Remedy also helps (for you...not the dog!)

Types of Shows:

All Breeds Championship shows - Any Breed may be entered in the correct group, class etc. Points are awarded for Dog and Bitch challenge, Best of Breed (BOB), Best in Group (BIG), Best in Show (BIS)

Group Shows Championship Show - Only breeds of the particular group ie Toys (Group 1), Terriers (Group 2), Gundogs (Group 3), Hounds (Group 4), Working dogs (Group 5), Utility (Group 6), or Non-sporting (Group 7). Points are awarded to Dog and Bitch Challenge, BOB and BIS

Breed Specialty Championship Show - Only the specified breed may enter ie Afghan Hounds, Border Collie, Pug etc. Points are awarded to Dog and Bitch Challenge and BIS.

Open shows - same as above but no points are awarded.

Parade - a sanctioned conformation show at which exhibits have not accrued enough points for a "Champion" title or have not yet applied for that title at the date entries close. Where ever possible a Parade is to be judged by trainee or open show judges and no championship points are to be awarded.

For further information please contact Dogs Tasmania email admin@tasdogs.com

Classes for Conformation Shows

Class	Name	Description
1	Baby Puppy	For dogs aged three and under six months.
2	Minor Puppy	For dogs aged six and under nine months.
3	Puppy	For dogs aged six and under twelve months.
4	Junior	For dogs aged nine and under eighteen months
5	Intermediate	For dogs aged eighteen and under thirty-six months.
6	Novice	For dogs six months of age or over which have not won a First Prize at any Open Parade, Open Show or Championship Show (subject to Member Body Rules). Baby puppy and Local classes excepted. (For the purpose of classifications (6) and (6A) First Prizes won up to and including the day before the date of entry close in a Show only shall be taken into account but such restriction shall not apply in the case of a Special Prize for which more than one win is required).
7	Graduate	For dogs six months of age or over which have not won a Challenge Certificate up to and including the day before the date of entry close.
8	Limit	For dogs over twelve months of age which are not Champions, or have not gained sufficient points to qualify as a Champion up to and including the day before the date of entry close.
9	State Bred	For dogs six months of age or over whelped in the State or Territory in which it is exhibited.
10	Australian Bred	For dogs aged six months or over whelped in Australia.
11	Open	For dogs aged six months or over and of a breed or variety recognised by the ANKC.
15	Puppy Neuter	For neuter dogs and bitches aged six and under twelve months.
16	Junior Neuter	For neuter dogs and bitches aged nine and under eighteen months
17	Intermediate Neuter	For neuter dogs and bitches aged eighteen and under thirty-six months.
18	Open Neuter	For neuter dogs and bitches aged six months or over.
21	Champion	For any dog that has attained Australian Champion title

*And don't forget to enter your bitch in the bitch class which has the number followed by 'A'
E.g. 1A or 2A or 3A, etc.*

Check in the show schedule which classes are available to enter, as very few clubs in Tasmania offer all of the classes above.

OFFICIAL SHOW ENTRY FORM CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW/OPEN SHOW/TRIAL To be held under the Rules and Regulations of the State Controlling Body _____ (Write Name of Club of which Entry is Made) Date of Fixture _____ EXHIBITORS DECLARATION I hereby apply to enter the foregoing exhibit in terms of and upon the conditions set out in the State Controlling Body's Constitution Rules and Regulations by which I agree to be bound, and I hereby certify to the correctness of the particulars endorsed hereon.		BREED: _____ Catalogue No. _____ (Club use only)		
NAME OF EXHIBIT: _____ <i>Details of the dog entered must be identical with the registration of the controlling body with whom the dog is registered.</i>		Date of Birth: _____ Sex: _____ Registered No: _____ Bred By: _____		
Entry Fees _____ Catalogue _____ Member's _____ Subscription _____ Sundries _____ TOTAL _____ CHQ. No. _____		NAME OF REGISTERED OWNER: _____ SIGNATURE: _____ POSTAL ADDRESS: _____ _____ PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____ <small>I certify that this exhibit has not within the said period of three months been in a kennel affected with any contagious or infectious disease and that the dog possesses a current vaccination certificate</small>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">M'SHIP No.</div> Entered in Breed Class Nos: _____ Entered in Special Class No: _____ Entered in Trial Class Type: _____ Height at Shoulder : _____

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