

# DOG DANCING

## WHAT IS DOG DANCING?

Dog Dancing is a mixture of obedience training, tricks, and dance that allows for creative interaction between dogs and their handlers. Artistic freedom is encouraged and dogs are required to work in a multitude of different positions and distances from their handlers. There are two forms of Dog Dancing in South Africa – Musical Freestyle and Heelwork to Music.



## How do I *get started?*

You can start training at any stage but generally the sooner the better.

Dogs need to be at least 12-months old to compete.

As dogs progress through the classes in Dog Dancing, they will move from Beginners to Novice, Intermediate and then Advanced.



Within each level dogs may also compete in Singles, Handy Dandy (for dogs or handlers with disabilities), Veterans, Pairs (2 handlers and 2 dogs) or Brace (one handler, 2 dogs). Dogs always perform off lead. The handler may wear a costume that fits the music but the dog may only wear a decorative collar and decorated ankle bands provided it doesn't affect the dogs movement.

No previous experience is required but it is recommended that you attend socialising and/or puppy classes. Routines vary from 1.15 to 3.40 mins depending on the level.

Register your dog, become a member of KUSA, get a Record Card and start competing.

## Reasons why you should consider Dog Dancing

- It is incredibly rewarding to feel your dog respond to your movements and feel that sense of harmony.
- It is a challenging Dogsport but gives a huge sense of satisfaction and reward.
- You build a strong relationship with your dog.

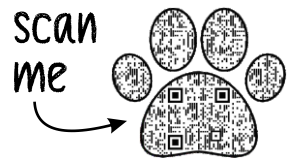
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## MUSICAL FREESTYLE

Musical Freestyle encourages artistic freedom and distance moves are encouraged. Dogs may perform backups, circle the handler at a distance, jump over props (or their handler!). The movements of the handler/dog team should be in time with and match the style or theme of the music being played. In some cases, the movements will be in the form of dance steps and body positions. In other cases, as in a theatrical or story-telling routine, the team will be performing interpretive movements, moods, and/or expressions to match the music selected.

## HEELWORK TO MUSIC

While similar to the above, a Heelwork to Music routine should be done with the dog and the handler in close proximity to each other throughout the routine. On all moves, the dog and handler team should move as one entity throughout the routine, displaying heelwork and creativity in the many positions and behaviours possible in HTM.



For pedigreed & crossbreed dogs