

DOG SHOWING

Dog showing is the most popular canine activity in the country and is a great way to show others why your dog is the best in the world, and you never know, you could even end up with a Best in Show winner or a Supreme Champion!

WHAT IS DOG SHOWING?

Dog showing or exhibiting is an exciting competitive activity where dogs compete at Breed (Conformation) shows for prizes or awards. It is a competition where a dog's attributes and conformation are compared against a breed standard for its breed. Whilst it can often be taken very seriously, it can be a fun pursuit that the entire family and their dogs thoroughly enjoy.



HOW TO GET STARTED?

Ensure your dog is registered with KUSA on the Breed Register. Only purebred, pedigree dogs are eligible to compete at dog shows. In order to compete, your dog will need to be at least 4 months of age or over on the first day of the show. However, training can take place before it reaches 6 months of age. If you're entering a championship show, the registered owner of your dog must be a KUSA member. Go to a local ringcraft class to learn the basics of how to show your dog. Puppy socialisation classes will also help teach some useful basics such as:

- socialisation with people and other dogs
- training your dog to walk on a lead nicely without becoming distracted by people or other dogs
- training your dog to allow people to examine and assess them by putting their hands on them, as a judge would

Try to go to an open show or championship show and watch how your breed is shown. Speak to exhibitors who are around the ring side. No question is a silly question - we were all new once, so ask away! Just remember not to disturb or distract someone who is just about to go into the ring. Ask your dog's breeder for advice and guidance. Familiarise yourself with KUSA regulations.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF DOG SHOWS

BREED SHOWS ARE ALSO KNOWN AS CONFORMATION OR BEAUTY SHOWS AND THERE ARE BASICALLY TWO LEVELS OF SHOWS:

OPEN SHOWS:

Open shows are a good first step to serious dog showing. They can be an excellent place to learn the ropes and improve your skills. The atmosphere is usually quite relaxed, and they are regarded as an excellent learning experience for new exhibitors, novice dogs, young puppies and student judges.

CHAMPIONSHIP SHOWS:

Championship shows are the highest level of dog show in South Africa and owners of dogs entered must be KUSA members. They are open to all exhibitors but there is a higher level of competition, as it is here that dogs can win Challenge Certificates (also known as CCs) which count towards the title of Champion.

CAN ANY BREED TAKE PART?

Dog shows are held by Dog Clubs and only the breeds that the particular club caters for, can participate. However, the majority of Championship shows are held by **All-breed clubs** and any KUSA recognised breed may be entered.

Group clubs cater for a group of breeds such as Gundogs or Terriers and only the breeds in that group can participate.

Breed or Specialist clubs cater for a particular breed or breeds and only those breeds are allowed to enter.

CLASSES

Most shows offer classes for: Baby Puppy (4 – 6 months), Minor puppy (6 – 9 months), Puppy (9 to 12 months), Junior (12 – 18 months), Graduate (18 – 24 months), Veterans (over 7 years), SA Bred (bred in South Africa), Open (any age) & Champions (must be a champion).

Dog breeds are divided into 7 groups: Gundogs, Herding, Hounds, Terriers, Toys, Utility and Working. Dogs compete against members of their own breeds first and then the winners from each breed go forward to Group competition. Group winners ultimately compete against each other for Best in Show.



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