



Things To Remember When Showing Your Dog

Be on Time

Arrive one half hour before judging begins. When you arrive, find out where to check in and get your armband. Ask where the rings you'll be showing in are located.

Plan Your Presentation

You and your dog should be clean and neat. Your dog should be clean, groomed and looking his/her best. Your clothing should be clean when you walk into the ring. Bring grooming tools so that you can sharpen up both of you just before you go into the ring. Wear something to protect your 4H white uniform and keep tidy before and between classes.

Showing is 90% Preparation & 10% Participation

Shows are not a time to train, they are a time to display what you have accomplished. The amount of time practicing at home, improving your skills and learning to communicate with your dog, will be obvious at a show.

Bring What You Need

Pack a chair for yourself, a kennel or a blanket for your dog to relax on at the show. You spend more time sitting and waiting at a dog show than actually showing. Bring water for your dog and a snack for yourself. At some shows, you may need to bring shade (a tarp or extra blanket and clips to hang it) for you and your dog. Be aware that some show sites are not on soft grass but on dirt - plan accordingly to keep the two of you comfortable AND clean for the classes.

Pay Attention

Listen for your armband number and ask the ring stewards when they think you'll be going into the ring. If you are entering one ring and may be called for a different ring, tell the stewards.

In The Ring

Always wait for the judge to give you instructions. The only exception to this is in showmanship, where you will enter the ring & stack your dog without being asked until the judge does tell you what to do. Don't begin any exercise or movement without an order from the judge. Watch the exhibitors in the classes before you so you

can get an idea of what to do in the ring when you do get there.

Don't Be Afraid

If you are uncertain about what to do, ask the judge to repeat the instruction rather than guess at what the judge said. Do present a calm and positive attitude and display only your best. Take all the time you need - don't rush.

Know The Rules

If you don't know the rules of showing, read up on them then ASK if you don't understand. Do so BEFORE you get to the show.

Relax!

Before you enter the ring, take a deep breath & SMILE. Remember that you and your dog are always learning. Each time you show your dog, you will learn something. Some shows you may do well; some shows will be dismal. But you will always be learning. You will learn what exercises or patterns you need to improve on, and what things you and your dog

does best. Enjoy the challenge of something that you and your dog have worked hard on to learn. When you leave the ring, take a deep breath & SMILE. You did it!

Be A Good Sport

Shows aren't just ribbons and placements - they are a time for you and your dog to do something special, meet others, watch different handlers and techniques and to perform, when it's your turn, your own personal best. Sometimes you'll forget something, some days you'll be outstanding. Each exhibitor at the show is ALSO going through this same quest for his or her personal best. Smile, encourage and support each other at the shows.

You Are a Role Model

Others see you as someone who cares about their dog and as an example to follow. Do you pick up after your dog? Are you kind to your dog? Are you gracious to other exhibitors? Are you polite?

What if . . .

The person in front of you is making a mistake? Choose to do what you know you're supposed to do. An exhibitor near you is causing you problems? Choose to do what you know to do to prevent a problem with your dog. Your dog just isn't doing anything right? Choose to remember that dogs, as well as humans, can get excited, forgetful and nervous too. Work with him or her by making your actions and commands in a clear, calm manner. This is reassuring to your dog and brings out his best.

This is a DOG SHOW

Never forget that - it is not a people show. Take your dog, praise your dog and care for him as the most important creature at the show. Watch other dogs and what they do. Make sure your dog has a great day by loving, training, performing and caring for him or her to the best of your ability.

Never forget that most mistakes in the ring at a dog show are usually made by people. Dog goofs are rare. People goofs are common. No matter what, dogs always forgive humans of their mistakes. Follow your dog's example and forgive your mistakes and other's mistakes too.





Things To Remember When Showing Your Dog

Check List:

HANDLER

- Your Uniform
 - White Shirt with collar
 - Tie or Scarf
 - White Pants
 - 4H Hat
- Belt
- Clean Shoes
- Hair - neat & tidy

DOG

- Collars
- Leashes
- Kennel
- Exercise Pen
- Grooming Supplies
- Water
- Water Bowl

Your Family

- Prepare in advance:
 - Know WHERE the show is
 - Know HOW LONG it takes to get to the show site
 - Leave for the show site with ample time to arrive & set up

- Snacks & drinks
- Chairs to Sit on
- Blanket
- Book or Magazine
- Camera

Your List

Top 10 Dog Show Hints

1. Have fun
2. Be a good sport
3. Keep a positive attitude
4. Display only your best
5. Never over handle
6. Never rush; take all the time you need
7. If you don't understand, ASK questions
8. Learn by watching other handlers & dogs
9. Be polite to all you meet & greet
10. Keep your dog between you & the judge

A 4H Exhibitor . . .

- Prepares for an event and does NOT expect parents to do so for them.
- Grooms & prepares their dog on their own and does NOT expect to have someone else train, groom, water or love their dog like they do
- Is in charge of their dog all during a dog show
- Immediately picks up any waste their dog makes on the show site
- Displays good sportsmanship at all times
- Does NOT abuse their dog in ANY way
- Is courteous, helpful and attentive to show management & other exhibitors
- Loves their dog & treats them with kindness, gentleness and concern

A Parent of a 4H Exhibitor . . .

- Is not a 4H member so will not groom, train, feed nor care for their 4H child & 4H member's animal
- Will allow their 4H member to do their best, realizing they will make mistakes and that mistakes are normal. Such mistakes may not be endlessly brought to the child's attention, because we all make mistakes.
- Will teach good sportsmanship by example, and refrain from any ill words aimed at the judge, the show management or other exhibitors.
- Will step in only if safety of the child, other children or animals is compromised.
- Will encourage & support their child & their child's project, as the project helps teach responsibility through accomplishments that come from *doing* - not by winning or placements at a show.

What is the 4H Goal?
To Make The Best Better !