

SHOWMANSHIP or HANDLING

Showmanship is your ability to show your dog at his/her best. In 4-H, any dog owned or cared for by you is eligible for showmanship competition.

It is important to practice your showmanship techniques along with your obedience so that you and your dog work as a team. Use different commands (let's go instead of heel) and different equipment (a buckle collar or show lead).

In the showmanship ring:

- 1.) Your dog must be clean, well-groomed and free of mats, fleas and ticks.
- 2.) Your dog must not sit and must stand still for a very thorough examination by the judge
- 3.) Your dog should always be between you and the judge
- 4.) You may be expected to answer a question about your dog or dogs in general
- 5.) You may use food or a toy in the ring to keep you dog attentive

RING PROCEDURE

All dogs are brought into the ring together in a single line; smaller dogs and slower moving dogs toward the rear of the line. The judge will either tell you to "move" your dogs around the ring or "set" them up.

MOVING YOUR DOG: (gaiting) Normal gait for the showmanship ring is the trot. Work with your dog to find out how fast you have to go for him/her to be trotting smoothly. In a group, you will have to move so that you do not interfere with the dog ahead of you.

After the individual examination, the judge will ask you to "move" or "gait" your dog. The dog should be moved in a slow trot in the pattern the judge tells you to do. (see illustration)

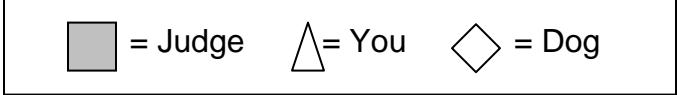
SETTING YOUR DOG UP: Place him in a standing position with front legs straight down from the shoulders and back legs slightly out from the body and back so the leg from the hock down is straight up and down. The tail (except in Collies, Shelties, Huskies, and some herding breeds) and head should be supported. Your hands should be out of sight as much as possible.

The judge will examine all dogs from the side, and then approach the first dog. At this time, all handlers but the second in line may relax their dogs (but should still pay attention to the judge). The second dog in line should still be set up. After the judge examines the first dog and starts to gait it, then second dog and handler move up to take the first place in line and the third dog moves up to the second place and so on until all dogs in the class have been examined and gaited.

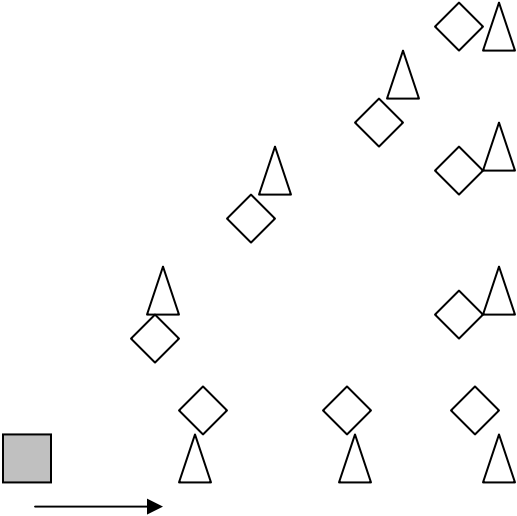
EXAMINATION BY THE JUDGE: The judge approaches your dog from the front. You may be asked to show the dog's teeth or the judge may look herself. The judge will give you dog a thorough hands-on examination (including testicles in the male). You should move to the dog's head as the judge approaches the dog's rear end.

Once all dogs have been examined and gaited the judge may have the whole class gait again or may have one or two dogs gait. Remember to pay attention to the judge and listen carefully to what they say and ask you to do.

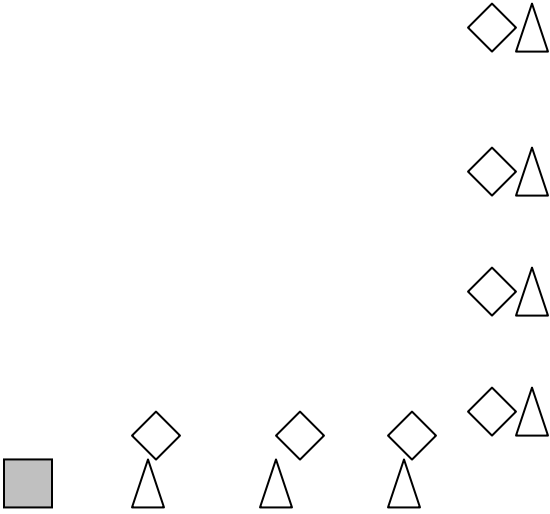
MOST OF ALL, HAVE FUN!!



“TRIANGLE”



“L”



Facts for showmanship

You should know:

- Your dog's breed (or mixture of breeds)
- Where that breed originated
(if a mix, choose one of the breeds and find out about that breed)
- What its original purpose or job was
- What it is used for now?
- What are the problems (health and others) in your breed?

Vaccinations:

- DHLPP & C – series of 3 in first year, then 1 yearly
(Distemper - Hepatitis - Leptospira – Parainfluenza - Parvovirus) & Corona
Distemper and Parainfluenza affect mostly respiratory system. Hepatitis is a liver function disease. Lepto, Parvo and Corona are mostly intestinal
- Rabies Vaccination – one at 3-6 months, one every 2-3 years
- Bordetella Bronchiseptica (Kennel Cough) – 1 per year or as needed for boarding

Parasites:

- Internal:
 - Heartworm (carried by mosquitoes)
 - Hookworm
 - Round Worm
 - Tape Worm
 - Pin Worm
 - Pin Worm
 - Whip Worm
- External:
 - Fleas
 - Ticks
 - Mites (both on skin and in ears)

Remember a “Ring Worm” is not a worm, it is a fungus.

Average number of teeth a dog has: 42 – with 4 canines. Dog have two sets of teeth like humans: 28 baby teeth till about 4-6 months and then the 42 adult teeth come in.

Gestation period of dogs is about 63 days (9 weeks) long, females have heat cycles which may last 21-28 days approximately every 6 to 7 months.

Other questions which may be asked:

- Why is it important to spay or neuter your dog?
- Would you recommend your breed for: an older person looking for companionship, a family with small children, or a family with other pets/dogs/cats? Why or why not?
- What do you like (or dislike) about your breed?
- Are breed specific laws a good idea? Why or why not?
- Are laws limiting the number of pets a good idea? Why or why not?

KNOW YOUR DOG'S BODY PARTS!!

