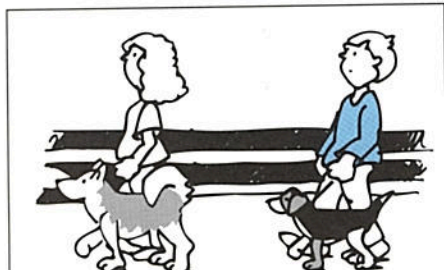


To complete this activity instruct one or more younger members how to show a dog in a showmanship class. Check off each one when the younger member satisfactorily performs the skill.

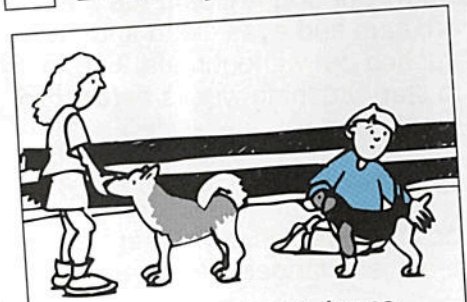
Enter the Show Ring



Gaiting procedure and spacing used when entering the ring and for group gaiting.

When the judge gives the signal, enter the ring and move your dog at its natural gait in a counter-clockwise circle around the ring. Always keep the dog between you and the judge, even if the judge asks you to reverse directions. If necessary, pass slower dogs by moving around them on the inside.

Line Up



Line up and stack your dog as quickly and smoothly as possible.

While gaiting your dog around the ring, the judge will direct you to stop. Leave no less than three feet between your dog and the dog ahead of you. Stack your dog while waiting for your turn at the individual examination. As each dog is examined, the entire line of dogs moves up a space toward the judge.

Stack or Pose



One method of placing the hind legs.

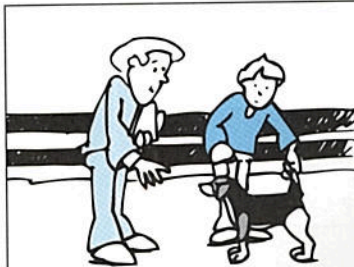
Set your dog up so the judge gets a side view of the dog at its best advantage according to its breed standard. If your dog is a mixed breed it should be shown by the standards of the breed it most resembles. When stacking a dog start with the front legs, move them into place by cupping your hand around the elbow joint. The hind legs are moved into place by cupping the hand around the stifle joint or by grasping the hock joint.



When these imaginary lines are all straight the dog is properly stacked.

You can now use the stand/stay command as you hold the head high enough to add style and make the dog look alert. You can do this with the show lead or by holding the head with your right hand. If you do the latter, your hand must be hidden from the judge.

Individual Examination



The judge will start the examination at the head and move down the body.

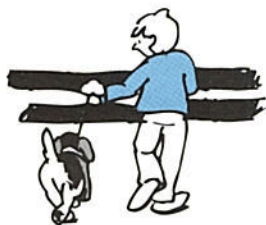
After your dog is stacked, each dog will have a hands-on examination by the judge with particular attention paid to the head, eyes, ears and bite. The judge is looking for a clean, well-groomed dog in good condition that has been trained to stand calmly.



The judge will expect you to show the dog's teeth. This is called "showing the bite."

The judge will ask you to show him/her the dog's teeth (see drawing). When the judge examines the hind quarters you may move in front of the dog to encourage it *not* to step forward.

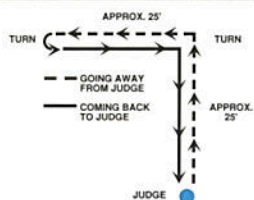
Gait



The start of both the "L" and Triangle pattern.



The turn around at the end of the "L." The dog is stopped, the leash is moved from the left to the right hand in preparation to turning the dog around.



The "L" Pattern



The "Triangle" Pattern

After the examination is completed, the judge will ask you to gait your dog using a specific pattern. The "L" and "Triangle" patterns are shown. To use the "L" pattern, move with the dog under control in a straight line away from the judge at a brisk trot for about 25'. Make a square turn to the left and continue for about 25'. Stop the dog, keeping it still. You turn and face the dog, smoothly changing the lead from the left to the right hand. You then go back exactly the way you came after allowing the dog to turn. At the corner of the "L" you again stop your dog and change hands with the lead to keep the dog between you and the judge at all times. Walk behind the dog and start gaiting forward again. Practice this so that it will look effortless and the stopping/starting hardly noticeable. Always make a square corner and trot your dog in straight lines. Now bring the dog straight toward the judge.

The Triangle pattern allows the dog to remain on your left side at all times. It does not require changing the lead from the left to the right hand.

Return to the Judge

Upon returning to the judge, present your dog in a natural pose. Return to the end of the line when the judge dismisses you.

Key Points

- Use a show collar and leash instead of a training collar and leash.
- Wear the armband identification on your left arm.
- Move your dog with alertness and smoothness.
- Always have the dog under control and keep your composure.
- Watch both the judge and your dog at all times.
- Keep the dog between yourself and the judge at all times. This may mean you move around the stationary dog or change the hand from the left to right as you turn corners while moving the dog.
- **DO NOT** drape yourself over the dog's back when stacking.
- **DO NOT** step over the dog.
- If you use food as bait to keep the dog's attention, do it discreetly.
- Stay alert. Keep your dog posed as best you can the entire time you are in the ring.
- Keep the part of the lead not needed to control your dog neatly folded up in your hand.

Talking it over

Share what happened

- Talk with your helper how you taught the showmanship skills.
- How successful were you helping someone learn?
- What was most challenging about instructing others?

Tell what's important

Describe your favorite teaching style.

Explore what you learned

Why is it important to teach others the way they learn best?

Date _____ Initial _____

More challenges

1. Serve as a judge for a showmanship class.

Date _____ Initial _____