

Tanana Valley Kennel Club
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NEWSLETTER

**Thinking about showing your AKC/CKC registered dog? How to go
from “Dabbler” to Exhibitor**

By Susan Parsons

Part Three: The Day of the Dog Show

1. Arrive Early! Especially if this is your first show and always arrive early on the first day of a multiple show week-end.
2. You will want to bring your acknowledgement/entry with you to the first day of the show. After you arrive at the dog show and have your stuff unloaded and your dog/dogs settled, you will purchase a catalog. Open the catalog and go to your breed and make sure your dog is entered and everything is correct. If it is NOT, take your acknowledgement to the superintendent's table and have the corrections made. This piece of paper will be proof you entered your dog and it is in the correct category. I have had my dogs not be in the catalog (which usually means they are not in the judges' book), I have had my dogs entered under the wrong sex, and once even had them show up under the wrong breed. Most of the time this doesn't happen very often anymore because of everything being computerized.
3. The Judging Schedule. Just a quick recap with some additional information. Example:

Ring One	9:00 am	9 Whippets 4-4-0-1
		7 Beagles (15 Inch) 0-6-1-0
		7 Dachshunds (Wirehaired) 3-3-0-1
		1 Basenjis 1-0-0-0
		1 Dachshunds (Smooth) 0-0-1-0

10:00 am 1 Petits Bassets Griffons Vendeens 0-0-1-0
 1 Portuguese Podengo Pequenos 0-0-1-0
 1 Bloodhounds 0-0-1-0
 4 Afghan Hounds 0-3-1-0

- The dog show starts at 9:00 am and Whippets are the first breed in Ring One. This means the judge cannot start judging the Whippets until the magic hour of 9:00 am., but judges have to keep to a tight schedule so the first Whippet will walk in the ring at 9:00 1 second.
 - Do not be late! Judges hate to wait for exhibitors and it is tough enough to win, so don't start out on the wrong foot before the judge even sees you and your dog. After the judge finishes with Whippets, they will move right into Beagles and so on.
 - If they finish judging the Smooth Dachshund before 10:00 am, they will have to wait until the official time. Judging can run late but can never start earlier than published. It takes roughly 3 minutes to judge a dog, so you can estimate that the Basenji will go in the ring around 9:50. BUT don't count on it, dogs can be absent or the judge moves at a faster pace. If I had the Basenji, I would come to ringside at 9:00 and assess how many dogs were there and then return at 9:30 if all the dogs in the breed before me were in attendance. This is something you will get a feel for after attending multiple shows.
 - There will be a judging schedule enclosed in your acknowledgement for each show and there is a schedule printed in the front of the catalog. So our May show will include 4 judging schedules, one for Saturday, two separate for Sunday, and one for Monday.
4. After you have purchased your catalog, you will want to find out where your ring is located. Each ring will have a schedule posted for that day. If you are a Whippet exhibitor, you will find Ring One. At Ring One will be a schedule posted just like in your program schedule. You will also pick up your armband at the ring from the Ring Steward. This is the number that is assigned to you and coordinates with the entry you received in the mail. The steward will hand you the number and mark you off in the steward's book. Once you received your number, put it on your left arm or somewhere so you don't lose it as this is the number you will wear into the ring for the judge to identify your entry. Even though you may have the same number assigned to you the whole week-end, you will need to check in with the steward each day/show (two shows on Sunday) and pick up your number.
 5. If you are in the first group of dogs that show at 9:00 am, arrive at ringside at least 15 minutes early. You may arrive earlier to settle your dog down and calm your own nerves but don't get your dog out too early and let him get over stimulated either. You should know your own dog and judge what will be best for him. You may even elect to bring a crate into the building and let him relax while you are waiting.

THE MOST IMPORTANT RULE?

DON'T BE LATE!

Judges hate to wait for exhibitors. They are on a tight schedule set by AKC. Don't make a bad impression before you even walk into the ring! Pay attention and listen for your armband number.

6. Judging will start at precisely 9:00 am with Whippets. First will be all the male classes. The order is: 6-9 Puppy, 9-12 Puppy, 12-18 Puppy, Novice, American-Bred, Bred-By-Exhibitor, and Open. Then all the first place winners will compete for Winners Dog, then Reserve Winners Dog. Next will be the same for the bitches. Then the last group called in is Best of Breed class. This includes any Champions of Record of both sexes, Winners Dog, and Winners Bitch. The judge will then select his Best of Breed, Best of Winners (Between the WD and WB), Best of Opposite Sex to the BOB, Select Dog, and Select Bitch. The Select Dog and Bitch can only be one of the Champions entered. A majority of our breeds won't have enough entries to award all these prizes.
7. If you are showing a little later in the day, you should go to your ring and watch the judge. The judge will usually use the same pattern throughout the day. This way you will know where to line up when you first come in the ring and what individual pattern they are using, example: down and back or a triangle. Any little extra tidbit to help you look professional will only help your chances of winning.
8. After judging, if you have won an award and would like a picture taken with the show photographer, ask the Ring Steward when the judge will be taking photos. They usually do it at the end of a group of dog judging (between the 9:00 am and 10:00 am group) if they have time or before they go to lunch. You will also want to go to the Superintendent table and check to make sure the judges book is marked correctly, especially if you have won Winners award or higher.
9. If you are lucky enough to have won Best of Breed (BOB), you need to stay and compete in the Group competition which is held later in the show. Each BOB, competes in their respective Group. The Group winner will then compete in Best in Show.

Dog Show Etiquette

1. Keep your dog under control at all times. Dogs should never be close enough to touch noses. If you have a small dog, be careful walking through the crowd. You may want to carry them to ringside. It is very tight quarters around the ring, especially entering and

exiting the ring. Keep your eye on your dog at all times. This is not the time to be socializing with your friends and have a dog fight ensue. Make sure you are close to the ring but don't be right at the entrance until you are called.

2. Crates at ringside. You are allowed to bring a crate into the show building in certain marked areas. Don't bring your crate until it is close to your showing time and then remove it when your breed judging is over. Also pay attention to how your dog behaves while in his crate. Don't let him lunge and be aggressive as other dogs pass by.
3. Grooming in the show building. Coated breeds take a lot of brushing and poofing. Try to be considerate and don't spray your stuff over other people, dispose of hair from your brush in the trash, and keep chalk remnants minimal.
4. Bait and toys. When using bait in the ring, choose something that doesn't crumble or make a mess on the floor. Don't throw bait. If you must drop a piece to get your dog's ears up, please pick it up. If you must use a toy in the ring, DON'T continually squeak it. Save the noise for one small time, such as when you come back to the judge for one quick look at the ears.
5. If you are looking at other dogs, always ask before you touch the person's dog. If it is another exhibitor and you want to get a closer look at their dog, ask if you can talk to them after judging, then you can ask them about their dog or if you have grooming questions.
6. If you bring family, keep them contained. Small children will need to have an extra handler while you are in the ring and if you have a stroller, be considerate. Your dog may be used to it but this may be the first time some of these dogs have been exposed to this strange wheeled vehicle. Also don't let children lean over the ring gates.
7. Put your cell phone on silent.
8. No matter what placement you received in the ring, always smile and thank the judge!

Words of Wisdom

Wear comfortable shoes. It is a long day. Make sure you have broken in your show shoes. Don't wear them right out of the box on the day of the show.

If you show early, wear your show clothes at the start of the day. Unless you are lucky enough to have a motorhome/camper, it is not fun to change clothes in the bathrooms. Then bring something comfortable to wear after you show. Bring a grooming smock to wear while grooming your dog before you show, then you can just pull it off and be ready to go in the ring.

Grooming, make sure your dog is clean. The number one complaint I hear from judges is touching a dirty dog. Make sure the teeth are clean and the nails are short. Each dog will require individualized grooming but this is just the basics for every dog no matter the breed.

Be prepared to show your own dogs bite. Judges do not touch the dog's mouths anymore. Also if you have a larger breed, be aware when you show the bite, you are not blocking the judges view with your head as you bend over your dog.

Bring a crate for your dog to relax in before and after showing. Bring water, toys, and your bait.

Bring yourself coffee, snacks, or anything else to get your though the day. Also bring a chair.

Bring your grooming tools, a grooming table, show leads, paper towels, baby wipes, and a trash bag.

Don't forget to brush your own hair or take a quick look at yourself before you go to ring side.

Make sure you go to the bathroom before heading to ringside.

**RELAX, SMILE AND HAVE FUN! REMEMBER
YOU WILL BE GOING HOME WITH THE BEST DOG
AT THE END OF THE DAY NO MATTER WHAT YOUR
RIBBON IS LABELED!**