

4-H Showmanship of a Dog

Have a breath mint so the dog doesn't smell your stress.

1. Wait until asked to enter the ring,
 - A. Go to first corner that will handle all the dogs in that class.
 - B. Go to corner that the steward or Judge states to go to.
2. Slow down gate, as you stop, grab muzzle or collar to steady the dog to stop.
 - A. Stopping at edge of corner if you are first in the ring.
 - B. Stopping about 3 feet behind the dog in front of you
 - C. If stopping by corner, stop 3 feet from edge of corner
3. Stacking your dog.
 - A. Hard stacking:
 - a. Right hand grabs collar, left hand grabs left elbow of dog, placing leg straight down from dog shoulder.
 - b. Left Hand takes collar, right hand grabs right elbow of dog, placing leg straight down from dog shoulder.
 - c. Right hand takes collar; left hand places the back legs, placing them by grabbing the stifle.
 - d. Right hand stays holding collar, left hand supports tail, muzzle or side of dog.
 - B. Bait Stack
 - a. Hard stack the dog
 - b. Tell dog to stay, show dog food, (THIS HELPS GET THE DOGS EARS UP)
 - C. Free stacking or Free baiting the dog.
 - a. Dog must learn to hard stack first.
 - b. Dog is baited into a stack by slowly moving the dog forward. Then giving the stay command. Showing the dog bait.
4. When Judge tell you to go around once
 - A. Get your lead ready, by grabbing collar or muzzle, while the other hand gathers the rest of the lead, the length needed to gate the dog.
 - B. Ask the next four people if they are ready to move.
 - C. Get your dog attitude into the gaiting mood.
5. Move on a semi loose lead.
 - A. Find the best loose lead position for that dog.
 - B. Fore arm is level to the floor or ground.
 - C. Arm is held away from body slightly.
 - a. If the dog gaits ahead of handler, arm is slightly forward, handler head looks in front of arm at dog (making sure handler can see the judge also)
 - b. If dog gaits behind or beside handler, forearm is straight out from body, handler head is up over arm and then down looking at dog. (again making sure handler see the judge)

6. Watch Judge to see what corner to stop on the go around.
 - A. Never make eye contact with Judge. Use your side vision to see where and what Judge wants.
 - B. Repeat Number 2: A, B, or C.(getting ready to stack)
 - C. Repeat Number 3: A . (stacking)
 - D. If stacking on table do the same as Number 3: A, but use only one hand to stack the dog.(you can stack the front legs while standing in front of dog, then move to side to stack the back legs.
7. After dog is stacked
 - A. One hand on Collar or Lead, the other hand on tail, side of dog or if needed be holding the muzzle under bottom jaw.
 - a. Remember not to pull head to far forward or the back legs will move.
 - b. Remember not to have the head to far away or toward you, for your dogs front will move.
 - B. Stay positioned in one spot after dog is stacked.
 - C. Judge will now go over your dog. Judge will ask to show the bite. (teeth) left hand holds the bottom of lower jaw while the right hand lifts the upper lip.
 - D. After judge has gone over dogs head, in some breeds (spaniels) you may want to stand in front of the dog holding the ears so as to show of shoulders and length of neck.
 - E. As Judge goes to the tail get ready to present the dog, looking at the dog's strong points.
8. Listen to see what pattern the judges wants preformed.
 - A. Never make eye contact with the judge. Use your side vision to see where and what the judge wants.
 - B. If dog is on table. Carry dog off table, place dog on floor/ground behind table.
 - C. Repeat Number 4: A. (getting your Lead and dog ready to move).
 - D. Do the pattern the judge has asked for, making sure your dogs rear is in line with the judge. Half way down the ring turn to look at the judge, making sure you are in a straight line with judge. (Smile.) When at the corner (decide if your dog does the about turn or the U turn better. Look at the judge to make sure you're in a straight line. Again half way back, look up at the judge (smile.)
 - E. Take two slow steps as you approach the judge, making sure you have stopped 6 feet before the judge.
 - F. Free stack/Bait your dog.
 - G. The judge will now want to see expression of your dog. (ears or a happy dog)
 - H. Repeat number 1: A, B.
 - I. Repeat number 2: A, B, C,
 - J. Hard stack and then free bait your dog. (unless the judge tells you to relax your dog)
9. Listen to judges instruction
 - A. Judge may want you to go around the ring again.
 - B. Judge may want to go over your dog again.
 - C. Judge may ask question about your dog(4-H)
 - D. Judge may move a leg to see if you fix the leg. (4-H)

E. Judge may move around the dog, to see if the handler knows to move with the judge. (4-H)

Things in General children must know for 4-H

Practice with your dog five minutes doing stacking; give the dog a brake for an hour than practice gaiting the dog. Repeat

Student must know all body parts of their dog. What breed and group the dog would be in.

What food is the dog is fed?

The dog must be clean with no mats, Toe Nails trimmed, teeth cleaned and ears cleaned.

The child must have the correct shoes on. Hair out of face. Wear clean clothes that show off your dogs color.

Showmanship Patterns

Down and back

Corner and back

Triangle

Reverse Triangle

L-Pattern

Side by side Down and back

T Pattern

Your instructor will help you learn how to execute each pattern.