



THE KENNEL CLUB
Making a difference for dogs

Information Guide

How to get involved in fun activities and competitions with your dog



www.thekennelclub.org.uk

There are so many different fun events, activities and competitions you can enjoy with your dog, giving you a great opportunity to meet fellow dog lovers and have lots of fun with your pet. The Kennel Club organises and licenses some great days out for all dogs and their owners covering a range of different activities, some of which are outlined in this leaflet.



THE KENNEL CLUB

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Telephone 0844 4633 980 Email info@thekennelclub.org.uk

www.thekennelclub.org.uk

Join the conversation:

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How to get involved in different activities with your dog

First - register your dog with the Kennel Club.

There are three types of registration you can choose. You should find at least one of which will suit your dog:

- The Kennel Club Breed Register enables your dog to take part in all licensed activities including Field Trials. To be eligible for entry onto the breed register, both the sire and dam must also be eligible for entry onto this register, and be of the same breed.
- The Kennel Club Activity Register enables your pedigree and/or crossbreed dog(s) to compete in activities such as Agility, Flyball, Heelwork to Music, Obedience and Working Trials. However, it does not qualify for entry on the Kennel Club pedigree Breed Register, or its progeny, or to compete in Field Trials or Gundog Working Tests.
- If your dog is already registered on the Kennel Club Breed Register, it is not necessary to also apply for registration on the Activity Register, as it is already eligible to compete in all these activities.
- The Companion Dog Register is open to both crossbreed and pedigree dogs.

Registration provides members with an opportunity to participate in exclusive Companion Dog Club classes at Companion Dog Shows taking place around the country. It doesn't replace registration on either the Breed Register or the Activity Register if you want to enter Breed Shows or activities like Agility, Flyball, Obedience, Working Trials or Heelwork to Music.



For further information please visit
[thekennelclub.org.uk/dogregistration](https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/dogregistration)
or call **0844 4633 980**

Training

Before you start on any activity you need to make sure you have the best guidance possible. Whatever you and your dog need, there's a club out there that can help.



1000s of dog clubs across the UK offer everything you need to keep your dog trained, active and happy. Find your local training classes in all great canine hobbies outlined in this guide – join a club and there's a whole world of exciting fun to be had.



To find your local dog club call **0844 4633 980** or search online at **www.findadogclub.org.uk**

Agility

Many people think that Agility is the most fun of all the canine sports for both dogs and humans. It is fast, action packed and a great favourite with competitors and spectators alike. Your dog does not have to be a pedigree dog to compete in Agility, but it must be registered with the Kennel Club on the Breed Register, or the Activity Register.

Agility is where the animal's fitness and the handler's ability to train and direct the dog over and through certain obstacles are tested. There are 15 obstacles allowed under Kennel Club Regulations, ranging from a straightforward hurdle, to a long jump, tunnels, weaving poles, an "A" ramp and a see saw.

Agility Tests are run against the clock. There is no set answer as to which breeds of dog are considered suitable for Agility. Any dog of sufficient size and fitness can compete and you will see from watching the various Agility competitions at the Crufts that there is a wide variety of breeds and crossbreeds competing, each with differing build and size. Agility dogs compete at three different heights and progress through seven grades as they become more experienced.

! IMPORTANT

Please refer to the Kennel Club Agility and Flyball Regulations Booklet which can be ordered from the Kennel Club.

Bloodhound Trials

The first Bloodhound Trials (known then as Field Trials) were held in 1898 in Yorkshire. At Trials, Bloodhounds hunt/track the human scent - this is known as hunting the clean boot.

The procedure is that a Runner leaves an article with his/her scent (known as the Smeller) attached to a flag at the start, then walks the Line on a route predetermined on a map. The Bloodhound is then required to follow the line and find and identify the Runner who waits at the end of the Line. There are four Stakes, starting with Novice (the Line is one mile long and is laid half an hour before the dog works) progressing to Senior (three miles long: two hours cold). Bloodhounds must be hunted on a long leash until they have passed a test to ensure that they do not chase farm livestock, after which they can be hunted free.

! IMPORTANT

Please refer to the Kennel Club Working Trial and Bloodhound Trial Regulations Booklet which can be ordered from the Kennel Club.

Dog Showing

The most popular part of dog competition is dog showing, as many have enjoyed the worlds greatest dog show - Crufts. At dog shows, the judge is responsible for comparing each dog to find the healthiest dog nearest the breed standard, ensuring they are Fit for Function.

Essentially the breed standard is a picture in words of how a breed should look and also details of the temperament.

If you think that you may wish to start showing your dog, the first thing that you will need to think about is training - for both you and your dog. There are many clubs that specialise in Ringcraft classes and can teach you how to prepare and present your dog so that it looks its best for the judge in the show ring. However, it may be beneficial to attend a local show before starting classes so that you can get a general idea of what happens at a show and also to talk to other exhibitors. It will also be an important part of socialising your dog and getting it used to interacting with different people and other dogs.



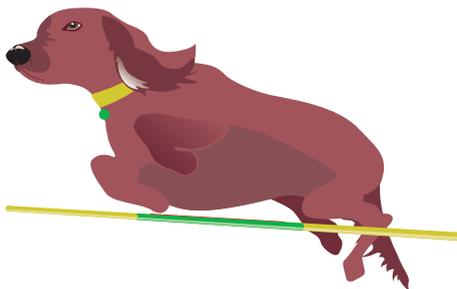
At shows, the judge must compare each dog with the breed standard to find the dog nearest to that ideal picture. However, it is not just the breed standard, but also the preparation and presentation of your dog so that it looks its best for the judge in the show ring. It is this aspect of dog showing that Ringcraft clubs can assist with. As for any competition, you and your dog must be trained and Ringcraft classes can teach you to achieve the necessary skills over a period of time.

Ringcraft clubs have a very sociable atmosphere. The ideal Ringcraft club should have classes, which start initially for the beginner, in particular the puppy before it goes into the show ring, through to classes for more experienced dogs and handlers in order to keep them in the peak of show training.

A great deal of time and effort goes into presenting a dog for exhibition at a show and even getting your dog to perform in the ring is a lot harder than it looks. A dog that only wants to slouch in the corner, or ambles around the ring ungracefully, will not impress the judge. It is important that you learn how to present your dog in the show ring to show off all its finer points.

! IMPORTANT

Please refer to the Kennel Club Show Regulations Booklet which can be ordered from the Kennel Club.



Flyball

Flyball is a competitive team sport which is run on a knockout basis. Two teams of four dogs compete at the same time, each using a parallel 'racing lane' down which each dog in turn runs, clearing four hurdles in succession before triggering a pedal on the Flyball box. A tennis ball is then released, which the dog must catch and hold before returning over the hurdles to the start line. The first team to have its fourth dog across the finish line, with any part of the dog's body, wins the race. The best of three runs usually decides which team proceeds to the next heat, although this can vary.



IMPORTANT

Please refer to the Kennel Club Agility and Flyball Regulations Booklet which can be ordered from the Kennel Club.

Field Trials and Gundog Working Tests

Field Trials resemble as closely as possible a day's shooting in the field and working gundogs are expected to work on a variety of game from rabbits and hares to grouse and pheasants. The majority of Field Trials are held during the shooting season (12 August - 1 February). A few Spaniel trials on rabbits take place during the Spring and Summer with Pointers and Setters competing on Spring and Summer circuits of one or two weeks where no game is shot or retrieved. Breeds within the Gundog group fall into four categories: Retrievers (including Irish Water Spaniels), Spaniels, Pointers and Setters and breeds which Hunt, Point and Retrieve (HPRs).

Gundog Working Tests, usually held outside the Shooting season are competitions that simulate a day's shooting in the field using a variety of "dummies" which seek to assess, without game being shot, the working abilities of gundogs. Pointers and Setters are the only gundog category for which Gundog Working Tests are not held.

Many of the dogs that compete in these competitions demonstrate their function as working as well as companion dogs.



IMPORTANT

Please refer to the Kennel Club Field Trials Regulations Booklet which can be ordered from the Kennel Club.

Heelwork to Music

One of the most exciting innovations in the world of dog training has been the recent introduction of Heelwork to Music. The title says it all - each competitor designs a routine to suit a piece of music of his or her choice of up to four minutes duration.

Training for this discipline is entirely by motivation and reward and the dogs just love performing; some to the extent that when they hear their music they become quite excited. Competitors are usually judged over three sections; each allocated a maximum of 10 marks:

Content of the programme

A variety of different moves that the dog has been taught to perform.

Accuracy and execution of the programme

How accurately the moves were performed and the flow from one movement to the other.

Interpretation of the music

Self descriptive in that the moves and choreography should interpret the music.

As competitors and dogs become more experienced they can progress over levels, up to Advanced.



IMPORTANT

Please refer to the Kennel Club Heelwork to Music Regulations Booklet which can be ordered from the Kennel Club.



Obedience

The first step to having an obedient pet is to take it to training, and there is no better place to start than at a Kennel Club registered dog training club. Dog training clubs are very sociable, where groups of like-minded people meet on a regular basis, and get great enjoyment from training their pets. Most clubs will have a cross section of breeds, including crossbreeds, and will welcome all standards of handlers and dogs to be trained. Training clubs that run **the Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme** – **the largest dog training programme in the UK** – are a great place to start, as these clubs will cover every aspect of dog ownership, from Puppy Foundation level through to Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. The Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme can provide you with a list of classes in your local area.



For more information call **0844 4633 980**
visit **www.gcds.org.uk**
or email **gcds@thekennelclub.org.uk**

After completing a basic pet Obedience course, you may want to try your hand at more advanced Obedience training. There are six Standard classes available at shows of which two may be entered and additional Special classes of which one may be entered may be scheduled. Each class contains a set of exercises which the judge will ask you and your dog to perform. The exercises range from heelwork (on and off the lead), to a recall, and control exercises such as a one minute sit and a two minute down stay.

Find a Dog Club

Whatever you and your dog need, there's a club out there that can help. Finding your local training classes, finding out more about your breed, or getting involved in great canine hobbies like Agility, Heelwork to Music or Obedience has never been simpler.

The Find A Club service allows you to search our database of over 3000 clubs. As clubs associated with the Kennel Club they must abide by strict codes of conduct, must be well managed and in line with Kennel Club principles of fairness and integrity. Above all, each of these clubs supports the Kennel Club's commitment to the health and welfare of dogs. Join a club and there's a whole world of exciting doggy fun to be had.

Working Trials

Working Trials are the civilian equivalent of police work, however for the competitor it is purely for competition.

All breeds can take part, but Working Trials are physically demanding so both the dog and owner must be physically fit. The exercises are divided into three sections:

Nosework

The dog follows a 'track' which is laid by a 'tracklayer' (who is a stranger to the dog) walking a set 'pattern'. The track is approximately half a mile long and laid on grassland, corn, ploughed field or heathland, with each competitor working on similar terrain.

As the dog follows the track it has to seek out and recover articles placed along the track by the tracklayer. The other component of nosework is a 'search' where the dog has to search for and retrieve articles placed in a marked area.

Agility

Consisting of a three foot hurdle, six foot scale and nine foot long jump. In the Companion Dog (CD) and Utility Dog (UD) stakes, the height and length is reduced pro rata for smaller dogs.

Control

Consisting of heelwork, sendaway, retrieving a dumbbell, down stay, steadiness to gunshot and speak on command.



IMPORTANT

Please refer to the Kennel Club Working Trial and Bloodhound Trial Regulations Booklet which can be ordered from the Kennel Club.

Unleash your dog's potential



The Kennel Club produces a Dog Activities pack which includes vital information on the activities you are interested in taking up plus a list of your local clubs. So why not unleash your dog's potential and request your pack and start enjoying some great days out with your dog?



email info@thekennelclub.org.uk
visit www.thekennelclub.org.uk/activities
or call 0844 4633 980

Visit www.thekennelclub.org.uk
to find out more.



THE KENNEL CLUB

Making a difference for dogs

The Kennel Club works to protect and promote the health and welfare of all dogs in the UK. We want happy, healthy dogs living long lives with responsible owners. All profits from the organisation go straight into funding the many programmes run in the best interest of dogs and dog owners.

Anyone can register their dog with the Kennel Club. By registering you will demonstrate your commitment to your dog's well-being and to the health and welfare of all dogs. You can register online today at www.thekennelclub.org.uk/dogregistration.

What ever your dog's needs, the Kennel Club is here to help and support you. Find out more by contacting us on 0844 4633 980, or visit our website at www.thekennelclub.org.uk and sign up to regular news and features about the wonderful world of dogs.

Additional guides on a wide range of subjects are also available to download from our website at www.doginformation.org.uk:

- Asthma and your dog
- Breeding from your bitch
- Choosing and bringing home the right dog for you
- DNA profiling and parentage analysis services
- Do you know dog law?
- Do you know how to look after your dog in its senior years?
- Do you know what to do if you lose your dog or find a stray?
- Find a rescue dog
- Health screening and the Kennel Club
- How to breed dogs using artificial insemination
- How to get started with dog training
- How to register your dog with the Kennel Club
- Kennel Club endorsements
- Moving house with your dog
- Road travel with your dog
- So you are thinking of working with dogs?
- Thinking of showing your dog in the UK?
- Thinking of using your dog as a stud?
- Travelling abroad with your dog