

Everything you need to know about holding a Companion Dog Show

Why hold a Companion Dog Show?

Dogs have a special place in our hearts and are a vital part of any community. What better way to raise funds for your charity or cause than by holding a dog show, where the dogs and owners in your neighbourhood can join you in raising money as well as enjoying a great day out? Always popular events, Companion Dog Shows attract hundreds of hounds and generate millions of pounds every year for countless important and worthy causes. Why not unleash the fundraising potential of the dogs in your community by holding a Companion Dog Show?

What are Companion Dog Shows like?

Sometimes forming part of a village fete, or as events in their own right, Companion Dog Shows are great fun events at which all dogs, great and small, pedigree and non-pedigree, take part. The mainstay of many Companion Dog Shows are the fun or 'Novelty Classes' like 'Dog most like its owner' and 'Dog with the waggiest tail'. Use your imagination and schedule some classes that everyone attending can have some real fun with. As there is nothing like a bit of healthy competition to get people coming along to a show, Companion Dog Shows can also schedule classes which allow pedigree dogs to compete head to head in classes such as 'Any Variety Terrier' or 'Any Variety Puppy'. Many people like to bring their new puppies along to Companion Dog Shows to get them used to other people and dogs and to see if they have the makings in them of the next Crufts Champion. Please note that puppies under six months old are not permitted to take part in Companion Dog Shows.

Sounds great, what do I need to do?

You will need to fill in a Licence Application Form and send it to the Kennel Club with some supporting paperwork and a fee of £10 and do not forget to include your Promotional Support Form (please see overleaf).

Before you do anything else, you must inform your charity, or cause, in writing that you intend to hold a Companion Dog Show on their behalf. The charity's acknowledgment of this letter (this must be an original not a copy) should be sent to the Kennel Club with the Licence Application Form. It is not possible for us to issue the licence without this information. Why not hold a Companion Dog Show in aid of the Kennel Club Charitable Trust, thereby ensuring that all of the funds raised go directly towards making a positive difference to dogs (see overleaf for further details)?

Why do I need a licence?

Holding a Licensed Show means that all dogs - including pedigree dogs - can compete and join in the fun. Licences are only granted to properly organised events so that all those attending the show know that the money is going to charity and that the show is being run under the high standards set by the Kennel Club.

One of the ways the Kennel Club makes sure that a licensed show is of a high standard is that licences are only issued to shows that are held in accordance with the Kennel Club's Regulations and have a published schedule. The regulations are not complex and are fully explained in this pack.

How long does it take?

You should not have to wait longer than two weeks to receive your licence (although in the very busy 'show season' of April to August it might take slightly longer). The earlier in the year you apply for a licence the earlier you will receive it.

Do I need insurance cover to hold a Companion Dog Show?

There are so many ways in which an event could run into problems, it is essential that you always arrange suitable Public Liability insurance which is a requirement for all Kennel Club registered events.

Another way the Kennel Club ensures that licensed events are of a high standard is by stipulating that the licence will only be valid if a current Public Liability Insurance document is held and is on display on the day(s) of the show. This is for the safety of all those attending the show and to protect you, the organiser.

Make sure you take advantage of a Kennel Club Public Liability insurance policy that is available for your event. Visit www.kcclubandtrainersinsurance.org.uk for more information.





Are there any other safety tips I should bear in mind?

Companion Dog Shows are most typically held over the summer and dogs suffer terribly if they are left in hot cars – even for short periods of time. (N.B. For further information please refer to the Specimen Schedule and Regulations included in this pack.)

What sort of classes can I hold at my show?

We have included details of the types of class you can hold in the Specimen Schedule and Regulations document in this pack. If you want your show to include all dogs in the community you must schedule some pedigree novelty classes. We can only licence shows that include these classes. You might also want to think about scheduling a Companion Dog Club novelty class as this will mean that the Kennel Club will help to publicise your event for free. (N.B. For further information please refer to the Companion Dog Club insert included in this pack.)

Hold a Companion Dog Club Novelty Class and we will publicise your event for free!

As an organiser of a Kennel Club licensed Companion Dog Show, you also have the opportunity to include a Companion Dog Club novelty class within your ring programme. The Companion Dog Club has thousands of members nationwide who will travel to their nearest show to take part which opens your show up to a whole new audience of dog lovers.

Furthermore, if you hold one of these classes, which are exclusive for members, the Kennel Club will promote your show free of charge. Your show will be listed on the Kennel Club website, and you will also receive leaflets, posters, a press release template and PR guidelines to assist you in raising publicity for your show. If you would like the Kennel Club to publicise your show free of charge please ensure you complete the section on the application form which concerns promotional support.

How do I find a suitable judge for my show?

Why not get in touch with your local dog club(s) and see if they can recommend a good local judge? Making contact with your local club(s) may mean that you can get the support of their members for your event. **Contact the Kennel Club to get a full list of clubs in your area.**

Can I hold a Companion Dog Show as part of another dog show?

Yes, Companion Dog Shows are often held as part of other Kennel Club licensed events, but a separate licence must still be applied for. The Kennel Club has no jurisdiction over Hunt Terrier and Lurcher Shows, however, if these shows are scheduled they must be held as a separate event and not as part of the Companion Dog Show.

Who can tell me more?

If you would like to discuss your event in more detail with one of our specialists, or would just like some advice, contact the **Canine Activities Services Team** on **01296 318540** or email **cat@thekennelclub.org.uk**.



Hold a Companion Dog Show for the Kennel Club Charitable Trust and help 'make a difference for dogs'

The Kennel Club Charitable Trust, making a difference for dogs by funding a wide variety of work ranging from supporting research into canine diseases to welfare initiatives and the promotion of support dogs, all of which give dogs healthier and happier lives.

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