

NEW MEMBERS' INFO

We hope the following information will be useful to new members who might like to show their dogs, and also to existing members who have not yet embarked on this popular canine activity.

Introduction to Dog Showing

Dog showing is the most popular canine activity in Jersey, in the UK and in other countries, and is a great way to show others why **your dog** is the best on the Island! All pedigree dogs can take part in dog showing and it is possible that you and your dog could end up taking part in the world's greatest dog show: Crufts.

What Dog Showing is All About

Dog showing or exhibiting is an exciting competitive activity in which dogs compete against each other for prizes or awards. It is a competition in which a dog's attributes and conformation are compared against a set "breed standard" for its breed. Whilst it can often be taken very seriously, it can also be a fun pursuit which people and their dogs thoroughly enjoy - as do spectators. Dog shows are held regularly in Jersey and Guernsey, and in many places in the UK, and to find the dates of Shows in Jersey visit The Kennel Club of Jersey's website: www.kennelclubjersey.com

How You Can Start

First, make sure your dog is registered with The Kennel Club of Jersey, through the Club's Registrar (registrar@kennelclubjersey.com). Only pedigree dogs are eligible to compete at dog shows - although this rule does not apply to companion dog shows - in which crossbreeds are allowed to compete. In order to compete your dog needs to be 6 months of age or over on the first day of the Show. Health is of paramount importance, so before starting dog showing, make sure your dog is fit for function, and fit for life.

Secondly, ask the Club's Registrar about training classes - for you and your dog - on the basics of ringcraft and dog handling. We hold training and Matches for beginners and new members. Also, the Jersey Dog Handlers Association (registered with KCJ) holds regular classes on Tuesday evenings at RJA&HS Royal Jersey Showground on Trinity Hill for "socialising" dogs and on ringcraft and handling for owners and dogs; further information is available from Christine Marett on 07797 740 836.

Thirdly, go to one or more of KCJ's Shows at RJA&HS (no admittance charge) and watch how your breed is shown. All breeds are shown differently, and therefore you will need to understand how you can show your dog in a breed specific way to its best effect to attract the attention of the judge.

Also do not be shy to speak to exhibitors who are around the ringside. Most will be happy to answer even the most basic questions; after all, we've all been new handlers and competitors once, so go ahead and ask away! Just remember not to disturb or distract someone who is just about to go into the ring to compete, and please remember that dogs not entered in the show are **not** allowed onto the show premises.