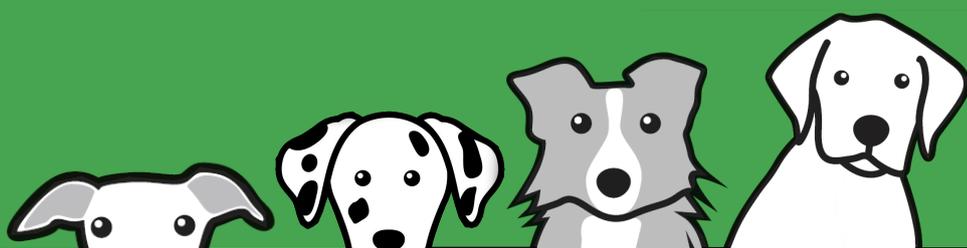


YKC Young Kennel Club

HANDLING COMPETITIONS
RULES 2021 (CRUFTS 2022)





A:

DEFINITION

- The YKC hosts twelve handling competition finals at Crufts culminating in a Grand final in the YKC ring at Crufts to determine the YKC handler of the year. To qualify for the finals, members must compete in YKC handling classes held at shows throughout the year, these classes can be found at www.ykc.org.uk
- Handling qualifiers run from the 1st January to the 31st December for the following year's Crufts

B:

CLASSES

- There are several different classes for you to enter depending on which show is holding the qualifier.
- Some shows are held on one day, these shows will typically be open to every breed of dog.
- Large championship shows may be across more than one day, as such on a particular day the show may only accept entry of one or two groups.
- Dogs do not need to be entered into a breed class to participate in an YKC Handling class at a championship or open show.
- If a member wishes to handle a crossbreed or non-pedigree dog, and the show permits a non-pedigree dog entry, the dog should be entered according to the group the dog most resembles.

Example:

The "Amazing Dog Show" is held across a 4 day period. As such they decide to split the entries to the show so that different groups are on different days. They have split the show as follows:

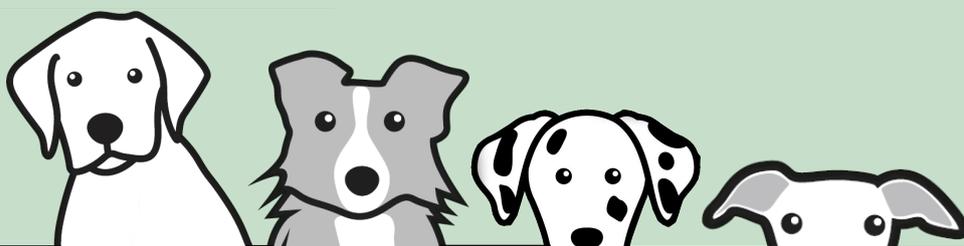
Day 1: Gundog and Terrier

Day 2: Working and Pastoral

Day 3: Toy and Utility

Day 4: Hound

You own a Border Collie, which is part of the "Pastoral" group. As such, you should only enter YKC handling on day 2 with the Border Collie.





C:

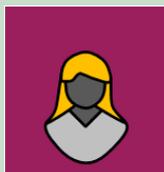
HANDLERS

YKC Members age categories will usually be split as follows:



6-11 Years

(Handlers 6 years and up to, but not including 12th birthday)



12-17 Years

(Handlers 12 years and up to, but not including 18th birthday)



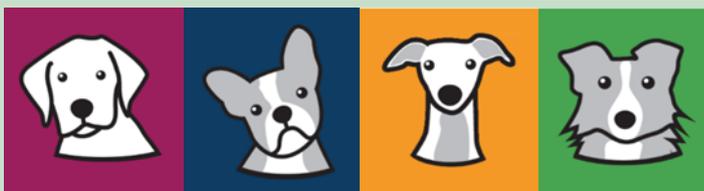
18-24 Years

(Handlers 18 years and up to, but not including 25th birthday)

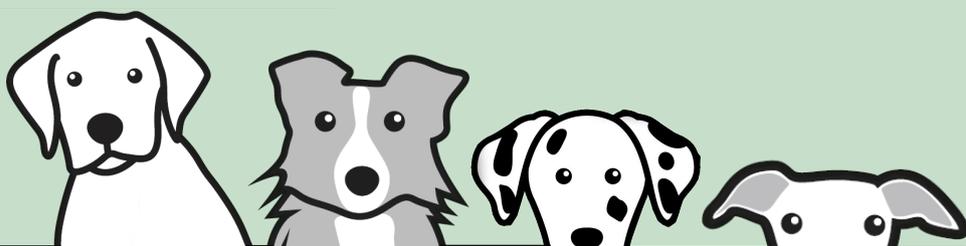
- There will be separate awards for each age group.
- A handler may only exhibit once per class.
- A handler should enter the age category they will be on the first day of the show. If the member would move up into another age group by Crufts, the YKC Office will invite them to compete in their new age group category.
- In order to enter any YKC competition, you must be a fully paid up member at the time of entry and competition. If you enter a Crufts qualifier and you have not previously paid your membership fee then any award will be forfeited.

D:

DOGS



- Only dogs of six (6) calendar months of age and over on the day of competition are eligible for entry into an YKC Handling class.
- As of 07/01/2020 dogs entering a handling class as their only entry at a show must be on a Kennel Club breed register **OR** the activity register. If a dog wishes to participate in both a handling class and a breed class at a show, the dog must be on the relevant breed register.
- YKC Handling classes may be the first and only entry for a dog at shows.





E:

QUALIFICATION

To Qualify for Crufts, members must gain points by being placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in YKC Handling qualifying events. To achieve qualification, members must reach **30** points for the year. Points are allocated based on what group you are handling. Any points gained will be for entry into Crufts the following year.

Points are gained by the achieving the following results:



- **1st Place: 30 POINTS**



- **2nd Place: 15 POINTS**

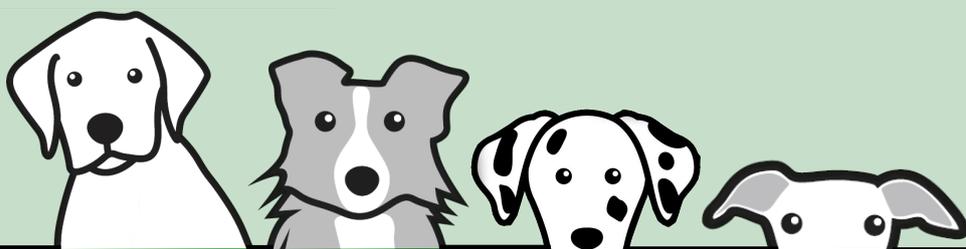


- **3rd Place: 10 POINTS**

- If you are placed either first, second or third, your points will be towards which ever group you were handling when you received the points.
- If you receive 30 or more points for a group, you will be invited participate in the handling final with a breed from that group.
- If a handler receives points across more than one group, they will only be invited to compete at Crufts with the group(s) of dog which they have 30 or more points with.
- Should a handler get more than 30 points in more than one group, they must choose one dog between those groups to enter at Crufts.
- All points are reset to 0 on 1st January of each year. No points are carried over from previous years. (If you gained points towards the cancelled Crufts 2021 Handling competition, these will be added to this year and count for Crufts 2022)
- If a member who received first, second or third is disqualified after the awards have been announced, there will not be any re-allocation of points.

COVID 19

The YKC may have to drastically alter how members qualify for Crufts 2022. This may be because fewer shows were able to hold YKC qualifiers this year, or possibly that we are required to restrict entry numbers to Crufts 2022 on government advice. More up to date qualification information will be released closer to the time. The YKC will endeavour to keep the qualification process as close to the above as possible.





F:

COMPETING AT CRUFTS

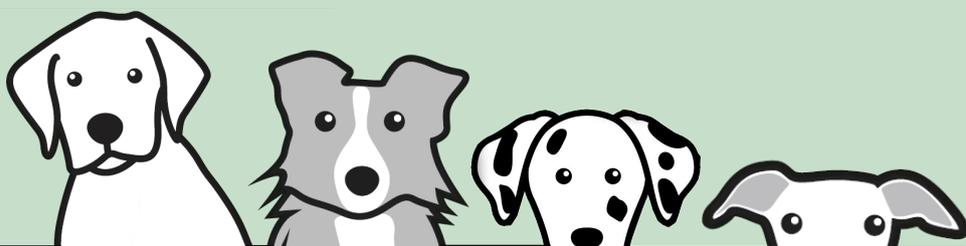
- The same dog may not be handled by two or more separate handlers in the same class.
- When competing at Crufts there will be 4 distinct classes each with 3 different age groups making a total of 12 classes.
- The classes will be grouped in the same manner in which Crufts is grouped:
 - Gundogs
 - Working and Pastoral dogs
 - Utility and Toy dogs
 - Terrier and Hound dogs
- The winner of each class and age group will qualify for the “Handler of the Year” competition on Sunday making 12 finalists.
- These finalists should handle the same dog as they qualified for the final with.
- Exceptional circumstances will be considered if the same dog cannot be used.
- All 3 age groups will compete together to try to win the coveted “Handler of the Year” award.

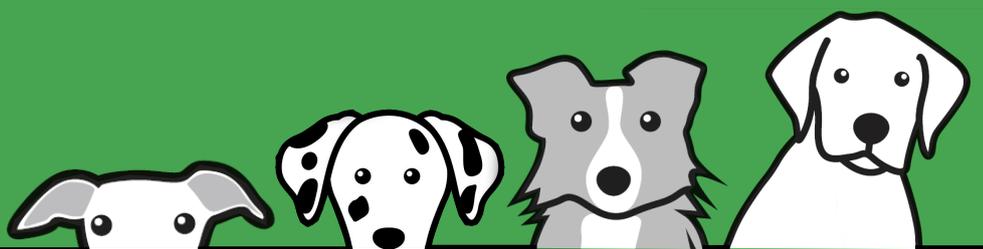
G:

COVID 19

Please note, until guidelines specify otherwise, the following rules must be adhered to in order to comply with government guidance.

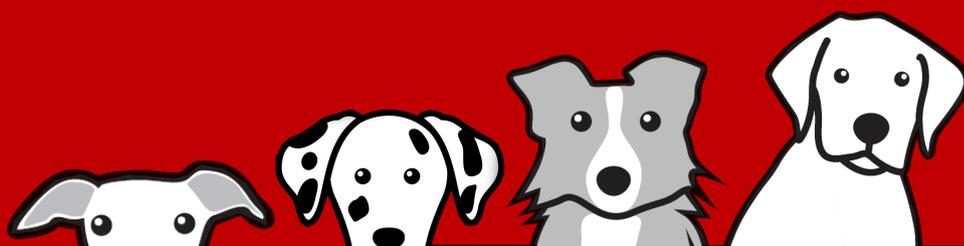
- Rings must have a separate entrance and exit, which must be adhered to by all exhibitors
- All exhibitors must wear a mask whilst in the ring
- All exhibitors must ensure they remain socially distanced from other exhibitors whilst in the ring
- It may be necessary for dogs to be in the ring on rotation if the ring is not large enough to accommodate all exhibits in one go with social distancing
- The handler will show the dog’s teeth to the judge





YKC Young Kennel Club

HANDLING JUDGING CRITERIA
2021 (CRUFTS 2022)

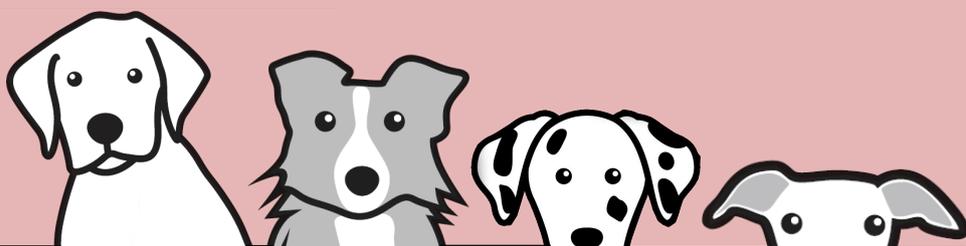




1:

JUDGES & JUDGING

- A. Judges at Kennel Club Handling Competitions are expected to maintain and abide by the highest standards in accordance with Kennel Club Rules and Regulations and appropriate Codes of Best Practice as published from time to time.
- B. Judge's discretion prevails and Judges' decisions are final.
- C. It should be reinforced that it is not the dog that is being judged, but how well the show handler handles the dog. The dog which stands perfectly and has immaculate pattern work is not necessarily being handled by the best handler.
- D. The dog need not be a close match to the breed standard, but should be still be healthy and able to complete all pattern work.
- E. Shortlist: In large classes, the judge may select the best performing handlers thus far and ask all other competitors to leave the ring. From this point onwards only the shortlisted dogs remain in the competition.
 - I. The judge is not permitted to shortlist all handlers bar one (1)
 - II. The judge is also not permitted to shortlist n+1 handlers where n is the amount of places awarded in the class.
 - III. The judge is not allowed to shortlist if the class size is less than or equal to the amount of places on offer.
 - IV. As part of the shortlist, the judge may ask the handlers to perform more pattern work. The new pattern work may be selected from any of the approved patterns, even if they have already been used.
- F. In the event of handlers being deemed as equal by the judge, places will be distinguished by the 'Unobstructed View' ruling.
- G. Any handling that may be injurious to the dog must be penalised by immediate elimination from the ring.
- H. Judges should ask handlers to relax during periods of inactivity should the circumstances warrant it. Handlers should remain aware of the judge during this time, and should be expected to present at a moment's notice. Appropriate conditions include, but are not limited to:
 - I. Large class sizes
 - II. Adverse weather conditions (too hot, cold, damp etc)
- I. Judges are expected to produce a critique for the first place handler.





2:

JUDGES MARKING CRITERIA

There should be a single judge to assess each handler entered into the class. The judge will mark all five sections of the Judging Criteria as follows:

A. Unobstructed View “also known as the Golden Rule”

- I. Every effort should be made to allow the judge a clear view of the dog at all times.
- II. Where required, the handler should alter their position to ensure they do not obstruct the judge’s view of their dog, this should be done discretely, without drawing the judge’s attention from the dog to the handler
- III. When the dog is being presented, the judge may manoeuvre around the dog, at a steady and considered walking pace. During this time, handlers should ‘shadow’ the dog. Shadowing is the process where the handler should stand adjacent to the dog’s leg that is furthest away from the judge at any given time. Any movement that is required during shadowing must be conducted discretely.
- IV. If a dog should be part of a line, adequate space should be left between each dog to allow for the judge to comfortably step between each dog and allow a clear view of the dog’s front. Handlers should be penalised for not allowing enough room between their dog and other objects (dog, ring perimeter, table etc).

B. Ring Entry

- I. When entering the ring, handlers should be aware that the judge will be observing them as they walk into position. Handlers should have their dogs standing or moving to advantage as they collect ring numbers from the steward and also observe the “golden rule” during this time. Judges may request that table dogs and floors dogs are put into a group together, if not, handlers must choose their position carefully while remaining courteous to other competitors.
- II. Handlers should leave an adequate gap between them and the preceding handler before entering. The size of the gap left should depend on the speed of the dog in front relative to the speed of the next handler’s dog.
- III. There must be no overtaking of any dog. Any group work must commence in the order the dogs entered the ring unless specifically moved into another position by the judge.
- IV. After entering the ring, handlers must form a single file straight line. The dog at the front of the line should be used as the reference point for all other dogs. All other handlers must position their dogs to be perfectly in line with the first dog, not necessarily the dog directly preceding them. Should the class be too large to form a single straight line, the first handler who does not have adequate room to stand their dog should form a new line, perpendicular to the first and parallel to the ring edge. That handler is now considered the first dog for the new line.
- V. As soon as the handler is in their position in the line, they should either freestand or stack their dog. No preference should be given to either method, although the end result should be the dog’s legs forming the corners of a regular rectangle, the legs themselves should not be over or under extended.





2:

JUDGES MARKING CRITERIA CONT.

C. Individual Assessment

- I. Dogs should be appropriately stood, either on the floor or on a table where required.
- II. Judges are permitted to move a dog's leg during the initial presentation. The handler will be penalised if they do not notice and immediately correct the stance.
- III. The handler will be asked to display the dog's teeth, the handler must demonstrate the left side, front and right side teeth, in any order. The act of displaying the teeth must be considerate to the dog, and must not cause any distress. Some breeds do not show their teeth in the breed ring, if this is the case, the handler should attempt to display the teeth as best they can.

D. Pattern work

- I. All Pattern work should be executed with the dog at a moderate trot, the pace being dictated by the breed of dog. The dog walking or galloping should be penalised, especially if the handler doesn't immediately correct the dog's pace accordingly.
- II. If the pattern would call for a straight line, the dog and handler should demonstrate a perfectly straight line, free from deviation.
- III. Handlers should begin most pattern work directly in front of the judge approximately 2-3 paces away. Handlers should begin setting off in the direction indicated by the judge's feet position.
- IV. The judge may set the same series of pattern work exercises, in the same order, for each competitor. If the judge wishes to set different patterns for each competitor, the pattern combination should be approximately the same length for each competitor.
- V. The judge may only select a pattern or patterns from the approved patterns list
- VI. The judge may choose to finish the pattern work with one final presentation of the dog. The final presentation is optional, handlers should listen closely to the instructions given by the judge before commencing any pattern work.
- VII. Where the judge utilises a shortlist, they may pick any number of patterns from the approved patterns list to repeat as a further test, even if the pattern has already been used.
- VIII. When completing pattern work, handlers are permitted to use the entire area of the ring to complete the required patterns. Handlers should only be penalised if, when completing the patterns, they do not utilise enough space for the judge to clearly assess the dog's movement.
- IX. The judge may ask, either before or after all pattern work is complete, for all handlers to perform a Single Lap of the ring as a group.

E. Lap of the ring

- I. Path: Circle just inside the perimeter of the ring. The single lap of the ring requires all handlers to traverse one lap around the ring, starting with the first dog in the line-up. All handlers should follow on from one another, taking care not to get too close to the dog in front. The Handler should pay attention to the specific section of the ring the judge is viewing, and time their handling according. It may be necessary for the handler to hold their dog back while a slower dog in front is being judged. The judge may indicate that more laps of the ring are required, Handlers should pay close attention to the judges hand signals towards the end of their first





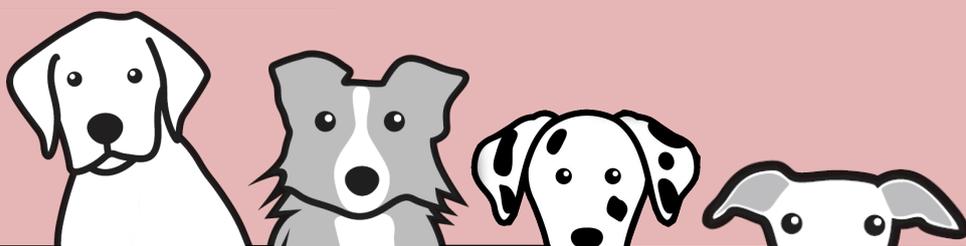
2:

JUDGES MARKING CRITERIA CONT.

lap. Handlers should also be aware of the judge changing position from the centre of the ring to the side of the ring during the circle. They will have to change hands accordingly so not to obstruct the judge's view of the dog.

F. Sportsmanship and Best Practice

- I. The judge's decision is final.
- II. Handlers should be gracious, whether they have won, received a placing, or not made the shortlist. The judge may change the order of placings at any time until the awards have been handed to the competitors. Handlers should continue to display good handling etiquette until out of the ring.
- III. The handler should demonstrate a strong rapport with their dog. During pattern work, the handler should communicate with the dog and be seen to be looking at the dog regularly during movement and stacking or free-standing. Handlers should spend the majority of their time watching their dog on the move and in the stand, handlers staring at the judge during assessment is to be penalised.
- IV. Handlers shall not display harsh handling at any time.
- V. The handler should display awareness of the direction they are traveling in, the line their dog is taking, and the position of the judge.
- VI. Handlers must be in complete control of their dog at all times.
- VII. Handlers should use a 'show lead' appropriate for the size of dog they are showing. The lead should be held without too much slack. The handler will be penalised if a lead is too tight as to make the dog uncomfortable. Any excess lead should be coiled and hidden from view within a clenched fist. Handlers should begin most pattern work with the lead in their left hand.
- VIII. Handlers must display their exhibit number clearly about their person at all times.
- IX. Handlers may use treats to bait their dogs. Should any treats, either deliberately or accidentally, fall to the floor, the handler should immediately pick them up. Failure to do so should be penalised.
- X. If a dog fouls in the ring, the handler is expected to clean up after the dog. If a handler does not have adequate provision to do so (i.e. no poo bag) this shall be penalised. While the handler is cleaning up after their dog, the judging will be halted and will resume as soon as the ring has returned to a state whereby no other dogs will be distracted by the fouling.
- XI. Handlers are expected to be courteous to the judge and ring stewards at all times, including thanking the judge after their pattern work is completed.
- XII. Consideration should be given to appearance of the dog and handler partnership. The handler's choice of outfit should be selected to mirror the breed ring, typically opting for smart attire. Additionally, no items of clothing should distract the judge's attention away from the dog.

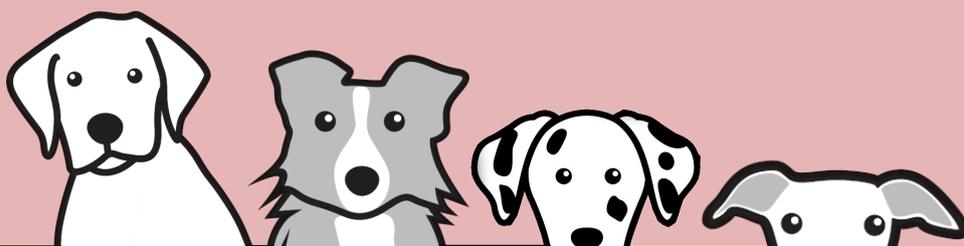




2:

JUDGES MARKING CRITERIA CONT.

- XIII. Judges should take note that if the class is scheduled for young competitors, they are likely to be less experienced due to age. Judges in this instance shall offer simple instructions when judging handlers in the younger age group (e.g. 6-11 years). Judges should use their discretion when selecting which patterns are to be used. If the judge has decided that some handlers are too young to understand some of the more complicated patterns, they must not use those patterns deemed too complex for any competitor in the same class; the judging must remain fair for all being judged. In certain competitions, complex movements could be introduced if the winner of the younger class is in a run off with winners of other classes.

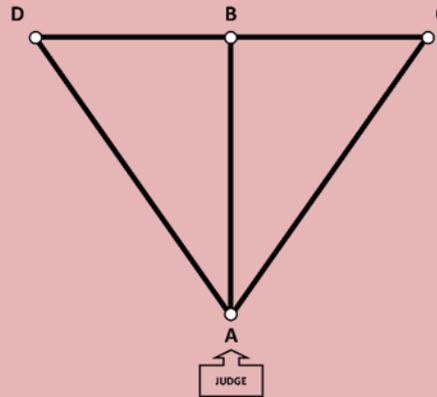




3:

HANDLING PATTERN DEFINITIONS

The following section details the approved list of patterns that a judge may select from. The judge is permitted to ask the handler to complete the patterns as a standard exercise (dog on the handler's left side to begin) or as a reverse exercise (dog on the handler's right side to begin). Figure 1 - Handling Paths a) Individual Patterns



The Triangle

Standard Path: A → C → D → A

Reverse Path: A → D → C → A

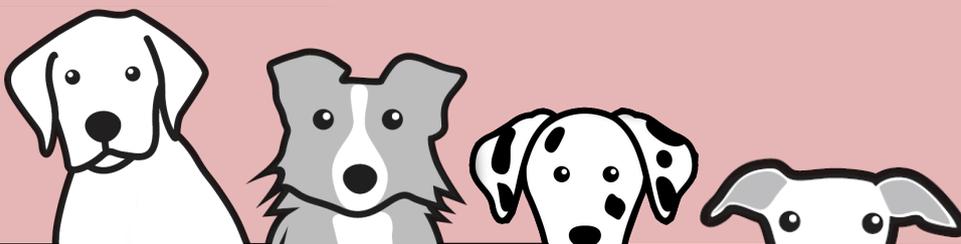
Description: 'The Triangle' should be made of 3 approximately equal length lines. The first straight line should begin with the handler and dog moving away from the judge towards the right hand side. The handler should then make a left turn, bringing the dog exactly perpendicular to the judges view and start the second straight line by proceed forward approximately the same distance as the first straight line. The Handler should then perform their final left turn to face the judge and proceed forward. At each of the corners, the handler should take the outside line with the dog on the handler's left hand side throughout. Handlers should not need to switch hands at corners "C" or "D"

Up and Down

Standard Path: A → B → A

Reverse Path: A → B → A

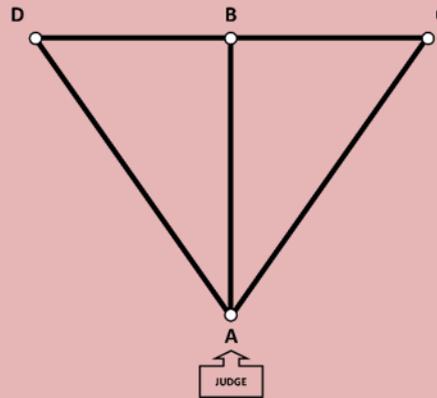
Description: The Up and down pattern should feature two straight lines, one directly away from, and one directly towards, the judge. The handler should set off in the direction that the judge's feet are pointing. The style of turn should be at the discretion of the handler but as long as the golden rule is not broken.





3:

HANDLING PATTERN DEFINITIONS CONT.



The 'L'

Standard Path: A → B → D → B → A (fig.1)

Reverse Path: A → B → C → B → A (fig.1)

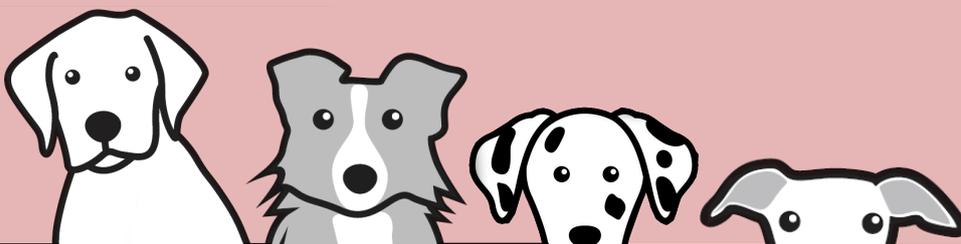
Description: The "L" pattern is designed for the judge to see the movement of the dog from each of its sides. The 'L' should be made of 4 approximately equal length lines. For the initial straight line, the handler should set off in the direction that the judge's feet are pointing. The handler should then make a 90° left turn and walk in a straight line for approximately the same amount of paces as the first straight line. Upon finishing the second straight line, the handler should perform an inward-turn, during which they will be required to swap the lead into their other hand. The Handler should then retrace their steps back to the judge beginning with a straight line, followed by a 90° right hand turn, followed by a final straight to the judge.

The 'T'

Standard Path: A → B → D → C → B → A (fig.1)

Reverse Path: A → B → C → D → B → A (fig.1)

Description: The "T" pattern is a more complicated form of the L pattern. The 'T' should be made of 5 lines. For the initial straight line, the handler should set off in the direction that the judge's feet are pointing. The handler should then make a 90° left turn and walk in a straight line for approximately half the amount of paces as the first straight line. Upon finishing the second straight line, the handler should perform an inward-turn, during which they will be required to swap the lead into their other hand. The Handler should then proceed straight for approximately the same amount of steps as the first line. A second inward-turn should be performed along with an accompanying swapping of hands. The handler should then proceed straight, using around half the number of paces as the first line. To finish, the handler should then turn 90° to the left and walk back towards the judge.





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