

DOG SHOW

Etiquette



Exhibitors/Handlers spend a great deal of time and energy preparing their dogs for a dog show. Some dogs may be easily distracted, and their Handlers often have a ringside routine to minimize the impact of outside influences. Moreover, Handlers often show multiple dogs and need to move quickly from ring to ring, which can be challenging at a crowded venue. To have the best experience at a dog show, please keep the following in mind.

- Be courteous to others and step aside to let others pass.
- Remember this can be a high stress environment!
- Always ask before approaching and petting a dog.
- Keep children under control – no running or uninvited interaction with the dogs.
- Do not touch or otherwise interfere with ring dividers (Children and Adults)!
- Remember, others at ringside are there to watch the dogs. They are not being rude if they don't want to engage in conversation during judging.
- Do not lean into rings and do not engage in conversation with people in the ring.
- Watch where you step – watch for tails and small dogs!
- Do not bring food to the immediate ringside area.
- Be mindful of your actions at ringside – no loud or sudden noises, abrupt movements, or elevated voices.
- Turn off the ringer on your cell phone or put it on vibrate. If you need to have a telephone conversation, remove yourself from ringside.
- Never hold a dog in close proximity to ringside. If you must hold an exhibit, step back from ringside.
- Leave your pet at home. Non-entered dogs should not be on show grounds.