



Welcome to Charlton's Ringcraft
We Can Help Your Dreams Come True.



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Charlton's Ringcraft Somerset

Ringcraft Classes for All Shows

Charlton's Ringcraft

Ringcraft Classes for All Shows
From Companion to Championship Standard
Junior Handlers Very Welcome
Every Thursday 8.00 - 9.30pm
Charltons Community Hall
Top Road, Charlton Adam, Near Somerton,
Somerset, TA11 7BE

Ringcraft Classes, Years of Experience in One Place.....

Training Given by Experienced Handlers
All Breeds Welcome
Indoor & Outdoor Training Areas
Regular Match Nights
Friendly Atmosphere
All levels of Experience Catered for

How To Contact Us

Telephone Maddie 01935-478628 or e-mail madeline.marsh@tiscali.co.uk

OR

Telephone Hils 01747 853070 or e-mail sweetsha64@aol.c

There is also a Forum and a Guestbook on our website should you
wish to leave a comment.

www.charltons-ringcraft.org

How the Club Started.....

Charlton's Ringcraft was started by Angela Morgan in 2005. Her primary objectives were to provide the opportunity for socialising young dogs and preparing them for the Show Ring, whilst providing a friendly venue for their owners.

She began her career in dogs by showing English Setters in 1974. She has bred, owned and shown several Show Champions under her [QUENSHA](#) Gun Dog affix, one of which became the Top Winning English Setter in the UK in 2001. She has also owned and shown Irish Setters and Pointers, one of which became a Show Champion. More recently Richard Bott (Irish Setters) joined the [QUENSHA](#) affix and together they have made up seven English Setter Champions as well as a Champion in four other breeds (Pointer, Irish Setter, Welsh Springer Spaniel and Weimaraner).

She has extensive experience as a judge; having awarded CC's in English Setters since 1992 and having had the honour of judging for the English Setter Society of Australia, in Melbourne. She has judged most gundog breeds, as well as Varieties and Best in Show for all breeds at Open Show level.

She spent 10 happy years helping to run Ringcraft classes in Maidenhead and decided that she would enjoy running classes here in the Charlton's. She believes the classes should be fun as well as serious, that is why they usually end with a few socialising exercises which make the handlers relax so that you can go home smiling---that goes for the dogs too. Join us and enjoy!!

Although the aims of the club haven't changed, Angela, stepped down in July after four successful years of running the club single handedly. The club will continue to build on the work that Angela has done and go from strength to strength. There are a number of members who have a great deal of experience and have been breeding and showing dogs for many years. We now have six experienced members who will handle at the ringcraft classes (on a rota basis). To those members we are very grateful as without them we would have no club. Angela will remain in close contact with the club and I know we will still benefit from her extensive knowledge and experience. Angela will still handle at the classes on a regular basis. We hope you will enjoy your evenings with us and that you take something from the club that will help you fulfill your Show Ring dreams!

Preparing Your Dog for the Show Ring

Through the years, a great number of people have participated in the sport with their pets who are second, third and fourth generation dog-show families. Dedicated families even build their holidays around showing their dog.

Each member of the family can have some meaningful task in showing: brushing, walking, handling or just applauding their dog whilst he is in the ring. The kids might show him in the junior handling classes, whilst Mum or Dad can show him in the regular classes. The outcome of hard training is about two minutes in front of a judge in the ring. What precedes this moment is a commitment from you to give your dog (and yourself) the care, time, preparation, training, love, patience and friendship to get the most out of your partnership when you are in the Show Ring together. This can be a long process; you and your puppy must both be well prepared. Ringcraft classes are the ideal place to start. Most classes will let you attend once the puppy has been vaccinated, usually about 12 weeks of age.

The ringcraft classes will allow your puppy to socialise with a wide range of other breeds, and you can both practice the showing stances. These classes are only a small part of the preparation and you must continue to train your puppy at home every day. You must get your puppy used to having his teeth examined and set up in the show stance. At the ringcraft classes, and at home, your puppy will be approached by strangers. This all helps in getting the puppy prepared for the Show Ring when the judges approach to assess your puppy.

Very often, a show dog is the only dog in a household. Therefore at the show, he may be anxious or in awe of a thousand other dogs. Socialisation will make showing a better experience for you and your dog.

What Every Show Dog Needs

Exercise-No matter how big or small a dog is it needs conditioning. For some this means a strict exercise regime; for others it means regular walks. Some handlers have a treadmill for their dog, ensuring proper regular exercise no matter what the weather might be like outdoors. It's very important that you don't over-exercise your dog. Once your puppy is fully vaccinated a ten minute walk, twice daily is advised. This can be gradually increased to a forty five minute walk, twice daily by the time it's twelve months old. This is a guide for a medium sized dog and should be tailored to your dogs' needs dependant on the breed of dog.

Nutrition-A good diet and the right foods to keep him fit and trim and keep his coat shining.

Grooming-Grooming is more than just making your dog look beautiful, it's for the love and health of your dog. Some breeds only need wiping off with a towel before they enter the ring and other breeds need considerable bathing with a good shampoo, brushing and coat conditioning. Some breeds also need their coat plucked, clipped and shaped. During a three-day period of showing, one dog might need to be groomed only once, while another might need constant

attention. It depends on the individual dog and the breed. Generally speaking, most dogs with a significant coat, such as an Old English sheepdog, will only go about two days before needing another bath. How often you need to groom your

dog will depend upon the length and texture of your dog's coat, your breeder would have given you advice regarding your chosen breed. There will always be someone at ringcraft or at a show that will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding grooming.

Nails May Need Trimming Each Week-So that your dog can walk squarely on it's four feet. If your dog's nails are clacking on the floor as it walks, then they are probably too long. If your dogs nails are too long their gait can be thrown off, this could eventually cause structural imbalances in your dog and can in extreme cases lead to disease. You can ask your veterinarian to show you how to properly trim your dog's nails.

Your Dog's Teeth Need To Be Checked Each Week-To ensure it's teeth are white and it's gums healthy. Every now and then you may need to use a dental tool to de-scale some parts of it's teeth that may have been missed when gnawing on bones. It does not hurt to regularly brush your dog's teeth, you can buy meat flavoured toothpaste at any good pet store, it is also obtainable from your veterinary practice. Don't use regular toothpaste which contains fluoride as it isn't good for us to swallow in large amounts, much less your dog. There are also dog treats available that will help with your dogs' dental hygiene. If you have any worries regarding your dog's teeth or gums contact your local vet. Dental decay can cause general health problems in dogs.

Clean and Healthy Ears-Cleaning your dog's ears should be a pleasurable experience, use cotton balls. If you've never done this it's best to ask your veterinarian for advice in the first instance. By learning the proper way to care for your dog, from a professional, you can avoid any possible mishaps.

Grooming Is More Than Keeping Your Dog Looking Nice; It Is Also About His/Her Health-By keeping their teeth clean, their coats brushed, their nails trimmed, and their ears clean, you'll be helping with your dog's overall wellbeing and health. You'll also be setting up a regular time for bonding with your dog which your dog should come to really appreciate. You'll also be able to notice early if there are any bumps, lumps or abnormalities on your dog that shouldn't be there. This way you can address those by visiting your veterinarian or other health professional immediately before any real problems set in.

The Show Ring:

There are four main types of dog show:

Companion Dog Show-Are mainly run as charity events, local fundraisers or alongside agricultural shows. Run under Kennel Club Rules the Companion Show is open to all registered and unregistered dogs, including show dogs and crossbreeds. It's worth noting that many of today's exhibitors and champion dogs started their career at these shows.

Limit Shows-Are smaller shows, which are good to attend to gain experience and knowledge before competing in the larger shows. These shows are usually restricted to members of the association/club that is running the show.

Open Shows-Are often local and the best place to go for gaining confidence and knowledge from other exhibitors in your chosen breed. Prizes won at these shows can often lead to further qualification i.e. Junior Warrant (JW), Show Certificate of Merit (ShCM) and on occasion qualification for Crufts.

Championship Shows-Are much larger shows. They are usually held at the weekend over three days, with different Groups being held each day i.e Terrier & Hound on Friday, Gundog & Toy on Saturday and Pastoral, Utility & Working on Sunday.

The Shows Are Based on Classes-And the winner of each class competes against each other to be awarded Best of Breed (BOB), Reserve Best of Breed (RBOB). The winners of the Minor Puppy and Puppy Class compete for this award but then also compete against each other for the Best Puppy in Breed (BPIB) award. If the show does not have a class for your breed of dog you can compete in the Any Variety Not Separately Classified (AVNSC) class. The AVNSC classes work in the same way as a breed class and there will be awards for BOB AVNSC, RBOB AVNSC & BPIB AVNSC. All BOB (BPIB) winners go through to a Group Final to become Best in Group (or Best Puppy in Group). Each Group Winner then goes forward to the Show Final to become Best in Show (BIS); Reserve Best in Show (RBIS); Best Puppy in Show (BPIS); Reserve Best Puppy in Show (RBPIS); Best Veteran in Show (BVIS).

The classes offered are minor puppy (6-9 months); puppy (6-12 months); junior (12-18 months); yearling (12-24 months); maiden; novice; undergraduate; graduate; post graduate; limit; open; veteran (7 years and over). Further information on classes can be found in the table on page 8.

The Table Below Explains the Show Classes You May Enter

Minor Puppy	For dogs of six and not exceeding nine calendar months of age on the
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	first day of the show.
Puppy	For dogs of six and not exceeding twelve calendar months of age on the first day of the show.
Junior	For dogs of six and not exceeding eighteen calendar months of age on the first day of the show.
Yearling	For dogs of six and not exceeding twenty four months of age on the first day of the show.
Beginners	For Owner, handler or exhibit not having won a First Prize at any show.
Maiden	For dogs which have not won a Challenge Certificate or a first prize at an Open or Championship Show (Minor puppy, Special Minor Puppy, Puppy and Special Puppy classes excepted, whether restricted or not).
Novice	For dogs which have not won a Challenge Certificate or three or more first prizes at Open and Championship Shows (Minor puppy, Special Minor Puppy, Puppy and Special Puppy classes excepted, whether restricted or not).
Tyro	For dogs which have not won 5 or more First Prizes at Open and Championship Shows (Minor puppy, Special Minor Puppy, Puppy and Special Puppy classes excepted, whether restricted or not).
Debutant	For dogs which have not won a Challenge Certificate or a First Prize at a Championship Show (Minor puppy, Special Minor Puppy, Puppy and Special Puppy classes excepted, whether restricted or not).
Undergraduate	For dogs which have not won a Challenge Certificate or three or more first prizes at Championship Shows (Minor puppy, Special Minor Puppy, Puppy and Special Puppy classes excepted, whether restricted or not).
Graduate	For dogs which have not won a Challenge Certificate or four or more first prizes at Championship Shows in Graduate, Post Graduate, Minor Limit, Mid Limit, Limit and Open Classes, whether restricted or not.
Post Graduate	For dogs which have not won a Challenge Certificate or five or more first prizes at Championship Shows in Post Graduate, Minor Limit, Mid Limit, Limit and Open Classes, whether restricted or not.
Minor Limit	For dogs which have not won 2 Challenge Certificates or three or more First Prizes in all at Championship Shows in Minor Limit, Mid Limit and Open Classes, confined to the breed, whether restricted or not.
Mid Limit	For dogs which have not become show Champions under Kennel Club Regulations or under the rules of any governing body recognized by the Kennel Club or won five or more First Prizes in all at Championship Shows in Mid Limit, Limit and Open Classes, confined to the breed, whether restricted or not, at Shows where Challenge Certificates were offered for the breed.
Limit	For dogs which have not become show Champions under Kennel Club Regulations or under the rules of any governing body recognized by the Kennel Club or won 7 or more First Prizes in all at Championship Shows in Limit and Open Classes confined to the Breed, whether restricted or not at Shows where Challenge Certificates were offered for the breed.
Open	For all dogs of the breed for which the class is provided and that are eligible for entry at the show.
Veteran	For dogs of seven years of age and over on the first day of the show.
Any Variety Not Separately Classified (AVNSC)	For breeds of dogs for which no separate classes are scheduled.
Imported Register	Where an Interim Breed Standard has been approved by the Kennel Club, breeds whose registration is confined to the Imported Register may be exhibited in this class only and are ineligible for any other competition whatsoever.

As you can see there are a variety of shows and classes on offer. The range of classes on offer varies from show to show; some may even have more than have been listed here.

The dog has to meet certain conditions before it can be entered into a class. More than one class can be entered at one show. The placements per class are decided by the show committee and will therefore vary from show to show. Most shows offer certificates and rosettes for those handlers and dogs placed in first, second or third place.

Each Breed of Dog Falls Into a Certain Group (Category) -There are seven Groups in total, Working; Utility; Terrier; Gundog; Hound; Toy; Pastoral.

Puppies Must be Kennel Club Registered-And be at least six months of age before they can be entered into their first show, so when you get your new puppy remember to send off the registration forms given to you by the breeder transferring the ownership of the puppy from the breeder to yourself. In the run up to your first show a lot of preparation must take place in the form of general socialization and ringcraft classes, so the earlier you start the better.

Limit Shows, Open Shows and Championships Shows-Are all held under Kennel Club rules, the regulations are always clearly printed on the entry schedule, or can be obtained directly from the Kennel Club.

Championship Show classes are usually split into dogs and bitches, in the less popular breeds dogs and bitches will be shown together.

Before you enter your first show it is always best to attend a few shows without your puppy, you will be able to see what will be expected of you both when you do attend your first show. You can watch and pick up lots of hints and as most people love to talk, especially about their own dogs, you can gain a lot of information as well. The Kennel Club, your breeder or your ringcraft class will be able to give you details (or point you in the right direction) on how to find out about any forthcoming shows that are relevant and local to you.

To Enter a Show an Entry Form Has to be Completed-Giving details of the dog being entered and for which class, the forms (contained in the show schedule) can be obtained from your local ringcraft classes, dog shows or directly from the show secretary. The forms have to be filled in and sent off with the entry fee some time before the actual show date. The form will have a closing date on it and entries received after the closing date will not be accepted. Once the secretary has received the entries, a catalogue of all the dogs entered is compiled. Catalogues are made available for purchase on the day of the show (you can pre-order and pay for them with your entry).

Where Can I Find Details of Forthcoming Shows?

Look in canine newspapers such as 'Dog World' or Our Dogs, these are available weekly, on a Friday. You can also apply for some shows online; schedules can be downloaded from some of the following links:

www.highampress.co.uk

<http://www.canineinfo.free-online.co.uk/>

<http://www.fossedata.co.uk/>

<http://www.cidweb.co.uk/>

www.dogshows.co.uk

What The Judge Looks For...

Kennel Club Standard-Dog shows began as a way of comparing top dogs and identifying superior breeding stock. Each breed has a Kennel Club Standard describing the ideal specimen of that breed; breeds were developed by man to perform specific duties. As such, dogs' physical characteristics relate form to function.

The written standard describes the ideal structure for the breed. For example, a greyhound is a sight-hound that pursues and brings down game, so he needs to be built for speed. A deep chest, with plenty of room for heart and lungs; a lean, powerful, aerodynamic body; and an unencumbered line of sight are among the traits that allow the performance of their function.

If a dog is a terrier, he needs a strong spirit and a protective coat to go to the ground to chase vermin. Most standards are very specific about details such as: eye placement, shape and color; ear structure and shape; the proportion of the body (long, square, tall, and short), feet and tail and more.

Breed History-Every judge must know the history of a breed and what he was bred to do to best understand how form and function must come together in the show ring. The judge must also know the standard for each particular breed being judged and apply that to each individual animal. At shows, a dog doesn't get the chance to perform his duties, yet the judge must envisage the dog doing so.

Showing a Dog is a Very Enjoyable Hobby-Most shows take place at the weekend, however some championships shows start on a Thursday or Friday and continue over the weekend. The Open Shows are a lot less expensive to enter than the Championship Shows and will probably be nearer to home. At the end of the day it is just a fun day out for you and your dog, enjoy it whether you win or lose. ***Remember, you are always taking the best dog home!***

Show Dog Awards

Junior Warrant Qualification

A Junior Warrant will be issued, on application, by the registered owner at the time of qualification, in respect of a dog that has obtained a total of 25 points between the ages of six and eighteen months.

The scale of points is as follows:-

- You must have 25 points in total. 3 points are awarded from each Championship Show win and 1 point is awarded for every Open Show win.
- You can only claim points if you are placed 1st in a Breed Class, such as Puppy, Graduate, Limit, Open etc. Please note that Best Puppy, Any Variety and Any Variety Not Separately Classified classes do not count.
- The dog must be between 6 and 18 months of age when claiming points.
- A minimum of 3 points must be from Championship Shows
- A minimum of 3 points must be from Open Shows
- JW points cannot be claimed if there are less than 3 dogs present in the class.
- You can claim one point for the Best of Breed award, but only if you were not able to claim a point for a 1st prize in a breed class and only where there are three or more dogs present in the breed
- You can claim points for 'Special' Breed Classes i.e. Special Beginners, Special Yearling provided these classes are listed under the breed classification and the relevant number of dogs are present
- You can claim points for 'Stakes' classes at a Single Breed show provided the relevant number of dogs are present

Junior Warrant holders will be awarded a Stud Book Number. A dog that has a Stud Book Number automatically qualifies for Crufts each year.

The title "JW" may be used after the name of the dog on show entries and in catalogues.

If you wish to obtain your Junior Warrant you must keep your own record of awards that your dog wins and the number of dogs that were present in the class/breed. If you do happen to lose your records you can always contact the show secretaries, who may be able to assist you by looking at their catalogues.

Application Forms can be downloaded from The Kennel Club at
www.thekennelclub.org.uk/download/1752/jwform.pdf

Show Certificate of Merit Qualification

The Show Certificate of Merit came into affect on the 1st January 2003; only points won after this date can count towards this award.

- 25 points in total can be claimed from placings at General Open Shows or Group Open Shows.
- 5 Points must be won in Group Competition.
- 5 Points for Best In Show
- 4 Points for Single Group Best In Show
- 3 Points for Reserve Best In Show at a General Open Show, or Group Open Show not judged on the Group system (effective from 1st Feb 2006).
- Multi Group Placings (Please note: Puppy Group placings do not count) – 1st = 4 points, 2nd = 3 points, 3rd = 2 points and 4th = 1 point.
- 1 Point for Best AVNSC (i.e. AVNSC Hound, AVNSC Gundog, winner of overall Best AVNSC)
- 1 Point for Best Of Breed.

Unfortunately, The Kennel Club only computerise the Stud Book qualifying awards i.e. Limit and Open classes (depending on breed) at Championship Shows where CCs are on offer.

If you wish to obtain your Show Certificate of Merit you must keep your own record of awards that your dog wins and the number of dogs that were present in the class/breed. If you do happen to lose your records you can always contact the show secretaries, who may be able to assist you by looking at their catalogues.

It can take anything from between 1 – 6 weeks from the date the Kennel Club receives the application. During the show season a huge number of catalogues are processed in show date order which might mean that you have to wait longer than in the quieter winter months.

You do not need to do anything if your dog wins a qualifying class for a Challenge Certificate (CC); the Certificate is automatically generated and will arrive in the post. This can take anything from 2 – 6 weeks from the date of the show depending on the time of year. The same applies to a Stud Book Certificate. The Kennel Club only issue Challenge Certificates, Stud Book Certificates and Champion Certificate, nothing is issued for a Reserve Challenge Certificate (RCC) win.

A dog is awarded the title Champion if it has won 3 Challenge Certificates at Championship Shows where CCs were on offer, under 3 different judges and one of the Challenge Certificates was awarded when the dog was more than 12 months of age.

You can obtain a list of CC winners and RCC winners, in a particular breed by contacting the Kennel Clubs Award Department. This is available free of charge.

The Kennel Club, 1-5 Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London W1J 8AB
Telephone: 0870 606 6750. Fax: 020 7518 1058 website:
www.thekennelclub.org.uk/about/contact_us.html

(The Awards Department can be found by using the drop down menu and clicking on 'Shows, Judges, Trials and Awards').

The Stud Book

As soon as you enter the world of dog showing you will become aware of the words 'stud book.' The stud book will become an important part of your competition and with luck your own dog will one day have his own name in the Kennel Club's stud book.

What is The Stud Book?

The stud book is a yearly publication from the Kennel Club that is revered by all those in the dog showing world. Within its pages are listed all Championship Shows from the previous year and the dogs that have achieved top honours at these shows. These books are kept and valued by exhibitors and breeders alike. When you read a copy of the stud book you will know that the name of the dogs entered therein have not been duplicated and can belong to only one owner.

How to Obtain a Stud Book Number

There are several ways that a dog may obtain his stud book number, by obtaining a Junior Warrant, a Reserve Challenge Certificate or a Challenge Certificate. Depending on the numerical numbers within your breed it is possible to gain a stud book number by being placed first, second or third in the Limit or Open class at Championship shows where challenge certificates are on offer. No dog may have more than one stud book number allocated to him.

Stud Book Bands

You can view or download and print the Stud Book Bands, or contact the Awards Department via email or telephone. Please note the Stud Book Bands may change and therefore it is advisable to enquire if your breed has changed bands in January. These bands are published in the January Kennel Gazette.

All breeds are placed into one of the five Stud Book Bands. They are labelled A, B, C, D and E. Stud Book Band 'E' contains the breeds that are numerically high in registrations. Stud book band 'A' holds those breeds with the lowest registrations. It is these bands that determine how a dog qualifies for entry into the Stud Book. The Stud Book Bands are reviewed yearly.

What Honours Does a Stud Book Number Give a Dog?

Firstly it is an honour for a dog just to be entered into the stud book. An added bonus is that a dog never again needs to qualify for Crufts dog show, his stud book number alone is a good enough qualification to compete at this elite show.

Charlton Ringcraft Awards:

The club hold regular Match Nights. A guest Judge attends and we usually hold five classes: Baby Puppy (under 6 months); Junior & Adult Handling; Puppy (6-12 months); Yearling (12-24 months); Open. There are rosettes awarded for those placed 1st in each class, a cup is awarded for Best in Show (BIS) and Best Puppy in Show (BPIS). This is a social evening that is usually very well attended. We usually have a buffet and hold a fund raising raffle and as always a nice cup of tea is on offer.....

Each year we hold a competition for all members and their dogs. This competition is run by Jane Russell. If you have any queries please ask either Jane or Maddie or email Maddie at madeline.marsh@tiscali.co.uk

A member accrues points based on the types of show they enter and the wins they have at that show. Members are asked to keep a record of their achievements for themselves. There are also notebooks on the table in the foyer of the hall on ringcraft evenings, it would really help Jane if you were to enter your wins in these notebooks. If the notebooks are not out and you wish to enter a win please ask Angela, Jane, Maddie or Angela

At the end of the year Jane totals everyone's points and the winners are announced at the Christmas Party. There are three cups on offer, presented for Best Dog, Reserve Best Dog and Best Junior Handler.

Points Table for Charltons Ringcraft :

Type of Show							
Companion Show		Open Show		Championship Show		Crufts	
Award	Points	Award	Points	Award	Points	Award	Points
BIS	5	BIS	16	BIS	50	BIS	100
RBIS	4	BPIS	16	BPIS	50	BPIS	100
1 st	3	RBIS	15	RBIS	40	RBIS	80
2 nd	2	RBPIS	15	RBPIS	40	RBPIS	80
3 rd	1	G1	14	G1	38	G1	70
		G2	13	G2	36	G2	65
		G3	12	G3	34	G3	60
		G4	11	G4	32	G4	55
		BOB	10	BOB	35	BOB	60
		BPIB	10	BPIB	30	BPIB	50
		RBOB	9	RBOB	30	RBOB	50
		RPIB	9	RPIB	25	RPIB	40
		1 st	8	CC	25	CC	40
		2 nd	7	RCC	20	RCC	35
		3 rd	6	1 st	15	1 st	30
				2 nd	14	2 nd	29
				3 rd	13	3 rd	28
				4 th	12	4 th	27
				VHC	11	VHC	26

Adult Handling:

In the last few years Adult Handling has exploded onto the scene. These classes are judged in exactly the same way as Junior Handling, but as the name suggests - it's for adults only.

These classes are found mostly at Open show level and classes range from: 17 - 25 years, 26 - 45 years and 46 years +.

People can get sloppy with handling over time; I would suggest that the best rings to watch if you're hoping to pick up some tips are the Junior Handling Rings. You can't change what nature has given your dog but you can present your dog in the best way possible, this can make the difference between First Place and not being placed at all.....

Please read on, everything that applies to Junior Handling also applies to Adult Handling.

Junior Handling:

You will find Junior Handling classes scheduled at most dog shows in the UK, from the small Companion Show to the biggest Championship Show.

You can compete in Junior Handling classes from the age of 6. However you can actually start practicing before this age, with or without a dog. The family dog may not always be the best dog to start with. A young handler needs a dog that is calm and obedient to work with.

It is advisable to join both Junior organisations; [The Young Kennel Club](#) (YKC) which has over 2,000 members (which includes entry to all disciplines like agility, obedience, flyball etc) and the [Junior Handling Association](#) (JHA) which has about 1,000 members. It costs around £12 a year to be a member of the YKC, for that, you receive a quarterly newsletter, badge and the chance to collect special awards. It's almost customary to be a JHA member (cost around £4 annually), if you're not you won't be able to compete in the JHA semi-finals which are held each year in September. More information about the JHA can be obtained from

Mrs Liz Cartledge, Ryslip Kennels, Church Lane, Binfield, Nr. Bracknell, RG42 5NL. Telephone: 01344 424144.

Firstly, encourage the handling enthusiast to join the YKC as a member. See above. You don't have to own a dog to join up and become a Junior Handler, you may handle any dog provided it is fully registered on the Kennel Club Breed Register and eligible to compete at Kennel Club Licensed events, but to enter YKC Stakes classes at all types of show, your dog must be registered either:

- Solely or jointly in the YKC memberships name or;
- In the name of a member of the family. Under these circumstances the dog must be at the YKC member's address.

There's loads more information about the YKC on their website www.the-kennel-club.org.uk/kcjo/welcome.html

Secondly, attend a ringcraft class (they are training classes for people who show dogs.) Go to your local class and have a chat with the people who run the club and some of the owners. They will know which dogs at the club are mature enough and sufficiently trained for you to use, in order to start learning the basics.

Thirdly to help them learn the basics of dog handling, buy a book on Junior Handling which will teach them what to do in the show ring and how to compete etc. [Junior Handling The White Way](#) is a book most Junior Handlers use and is said to be the most current and up-to-date handling book available.

You do not always have to use the same dog in a Junior Handling Class as long as the dog you choose to handle is entered in another class at the same show.

Any breed of dog can be used for Junior Handling but some are more versatile and suitable than others. Whatever breed you choose, it must match your size, temperament and experience. A very bad example is a 6 year old inexperienced handler who uses the family dog, an Irish Wolfhound to show in the ring. It is not a good idea to use a puppy if you are just starting out in Junior Handling. They are unpredictable and are liable to throw you off balance, plus they are learning too!

The judge should not be judging the dog in handling competitions, no matter what they have been telling you. Whether you are handling a puppy, a champion or a veteran, the judge should be judging whether or not you are showing the dog off to its best potential whilst minimising any faults it may have. As such it shouldn't matter if your dog is out of coat, as long as the dog is KC registered and has been entered in another class at the show. This makes the dog eligible for use in the handling class. The judge should be judging the handling and not the dogs breed credentials.

Practice Makes Perfect

You can practice with or without your dog at home in your garden, at the park, and at your local ringcraft class – the more effort you put in the more you will get out of your dog in the Show Ring.....

Rules:

In Junior Handling it is the skill of the handler which is being judged, not the dog. Children aged between 6 and 16 present their dogs to the judge, to the best of their ability. The judge will decide after assessing each and every handler what the placings, in their opinion, should be.

Normally the classes are split in two: 6 - 11 years and 12 - 16 years.

Judging:

A normal handling class is judged as follows:

- The steward calls the class in so handlers enter the ring with their dogs and are given their ring number.
- Handlers set up their dogs at the side of the ring.
- The judge will walk down the line to get first impressions.
- The first handler in the line gets ready on the table or the floor (depending on the size of the breed) to be assessed individually.
- The judge will 'go over' the dog. They will usually ask the handler to show the dogs teeth and may ask a question about the dogs basic anatomy or the breed history (not usual in the younger age group but may happen so be prepared). If you have a quality and experienced line-up of Junior

Handlers in the older class and are finding it hard to split them, this is a good way of finding out the great handlers from the good. What's the harm for youngsters to know the basic anatomy of their dog and their breed history? You're more likely to be asked these questions at a Championship Show or if you're lucky enough to get there, at the Richmond semi-finals – you'd be surprised how many Adult Handlers don't know how many teeth a dog should have.....

- The judge will then ask the handler to do a pattern. (May ask for just one or sometimes two put together.) This is where both dog and handler have to move in a shape using the whole of the ring, without breaking the **'Golden Rule' - when moving your dog for the judge, you should not get between the dog and the judge. Different 'turns' are used to ensure you do not break this rule. A good Junior Handling judge should penalise breaking this rule in competition.**
- The most common patterns are: straight up and down, triangle, circle or round the ring, 'T', 'L' or the figure of 8.
- After the pattern is complete, the handler will move to the end of the line and the judge will then move onto the next handler in the line.
- After all handlers and their dogs have been seen in the class, the judge may walk down the 'lineup' once again to make his/her final decision.
- The judge will then pick out his winner, then second, third and fourth. Some shows give prizes for fifth or V.H.C (very highly commended).
- Handlers who have not won a prize at this point leave the ring. The winners stay lined up in the centre of the ring and receives their prizes.

The judge will also be looking for proficiency in the following areas:

Presentation-This is what the handler is wearing, and whether the dog is clean, brushed and trimmed. When competing in a Junior Handling class, what you wear could cost you a place in the line - up. Therefore it is essential to dress smart but still feel comfortable (no jeans). For example for girls: a trouser-suit is a good idea with comfortable lace-up shoes (no trainers). For boys, a shirt and tie and smart trousers will look the part. Make sure your hair is tidy and don't forget to smile and look at the judge when they're talking to you. If you look good, you'll feel more confident and this should transfer down the lead to your dog.

If you are completely new to showing, you will need a suitable 'show lead'. If your dog is shown with his normal collar and lead on, the dog will think it is going for a walk and behave accordingly! There are many types of show leads: the slip chain with a nylon attachment, the all-in -one nylon lead and the leather leads. Its best to buy your show lead at a dog show where there is a wide choice and you can see if it's suitable for your dog.

Rapport-This is the 'vibe' between the handler and the dog, the dog should listen to the handlers' instructions and they must move together in harmony.

Technique-When on the move straight lines, tight corners and a suitable pace for your breed are needed here when executing patterns. Be careful not to over handle your dog. Over handling can result by doing a combination of things - for example, shouting a command at your dog is not acceptable. The judge will want

to hear your encouragement but not be deafened by it. Do not exaggerate 'YOUR' movements - the judge doesn't want to be distracted because you are waving your arms in the air or walking like you are on a catwalk. You are meant to merge in the background. I know junior handling is all about the handler but what the judge wants to see is you getting the best out of your dog, whether it is a Champion or the runt of the litter. You can spot a junior 'over handling' also when they are stacking or 'setting up' a dog. Too much fiddling like moving the dogs' legs when they are already in the correct position or fluffing of the coat is a no, no. And lastly another example of 'over handling' is glancing back to see where the judge is when performing your patterns (eyeballing the judge). There is nothing worse than watching a handler looking over their shoulder every two seconds when doing a triangle. Before the first left turn - just slyly look over your shoulder and at the next one do the same again.

Balance-This means that both handler and their dog should be standing evenly and moving straight.

Sportsmanship and Etiquette-It is acceptable to ask the judge why you didn't win after your handling class has finished. Be polite and accept their answers. Whatever you do - do not argue, not only is this bad sportsmanship but the judge can not change their decision.

It is expected before you compete seriously, that you are strong and competent enough to keep control of your dog in a safe manner in the ring. For example your dog may be too large and boisterous for you to cope with. If the steward sees that you are not in control of your dog then he may ask you to leave the class. Your dog could put other dogs and their handlers at risk.

Best Junior Handler

At some dog shows the winners of each class compete against each other and the judge will pick an overall winner. This youngster would normally be called the Best Junior Handler.

Final Points:

These are the most important things to remember when competing in Junior Handling:

- Always handle your dog in a calm and gently manner.
- Enjoy showing and handling the dog – remember to smile, it should be fun.
- **“Win with pride but lose with dignity.”** We should all remember this one; people have a tendency to remember a bad loser over a winner!

ANATOMICAL POINTS OF THE DOG

