



Best Practices for Holding a Match

A match is often a person's first experience with dog shows. With good planning, this is the perfect opportunity for your club to provide a fun welcoming experience.

Like any event it's good to have a few people planning your next match, **#1 Form a committee** with at least one person with experience. Anyone with no experience can review the AKC Show Manual but it is rather complex as it addresses holding a Championship point show.

Matches are great events when the weather is just right **#2 Select the time of year** for your area that has the best chance of being nice.

Matches are often held outdoors at a park or fairgrounds, **#3 Select a site** that has either a building suitable for the anticipated entry or has a flat grassy area large enough to set up a ring. The site should have plenty of shade, restrooms and water.

Once locked in **#4 promote your match**, through your social media channels clubs can reach a lot of local people looking for something to do, often with their dogs, spread the word!

Matches are a good opportunity to give an aspiring judge a chance to see what judging is about. **#5 Select judges** that are knowledgeable about dog shows.

Don't forget **#6 Food and drinks** can help the day run smoother. Find vendors or organize club members to provide the necessities.

Prepare in advance, **#7 Get the site ready** as early as possible. Make sure you have plenty of time and assistance to get everything ready before taking entries and judging starts.

#8 Make sure the simple things are covered like adequate garbage receptacles hand wipes, water...

Someone with some knowledge and a smiling face can brighten up even the most confused participant. **#9 The more club members** at the match the better.

#10 Celebrate everyone's success, if you see someone getting a dog to walk on lead for the first time let them know how great that is.

Making sure the site is clean at the end of the day helps ensure future access, **#11 Plan on a clean-up party**. Make sure you have plenty of help, so the chore goes faster, and you have time to relax before heading home. Celebrate a great event and start thinking about the next one!

For additional assistance please contact AKC Club Development, clubdevelopment@akc.org, 919-816-3705