

JUST PURE FUN FOR YOU AND YOUR DOG!

Would your dog like meeting other dogs? You can do that while attending an AKC MATCH SHOW!

What is there to do at a match show?

(besides kissing your dog)



- Meet fellow dog-lovers,
- Spend quality time with your dog,
- Healthy socialization of new places, people, dogs and discovering new activities...

If you are interested in competing make sure you arrive early in the morning so that you can have your dog entered in the show before it starts. A club member should be able to help you with this or direct you for further assistance.

While competing is not the only thing to do at a match often the first thing someone asks is:

How do I enter an AKC Match Show?

In order to compete, you must enter your dog in the show. Most Match Shows allow for “day-of-show” entries, in which case you can enter your dog at the show site on the day of the show.

How do I prepare my dog for the match?

Depending on the type of match there are different types of training needed to compete successfully visit the clubs website or contact the match secretary to learn more about what the specific match you are interested in has to offer. However, all dogs should be prepared in the three items below:

Walking on a leash

Your dog should be comfortable wearing a collar and walking on a leash by your left side. You may have been taught this as the “heel position” in your puppy kindergarten class. This is easy to practice at home before going to the show.

Meet me

Young dogs love people so be prepared for them to meet lots of new people at the show! You may want to get them ready to meet people by taking your dog to a park or other public spaces.

Looking their best

Don't forget to groom your dog as part of the preparation. If they are really dirty, as some dogs can be very active outdoors, then maybe a bath a day or two before the show is in order. At the very least, make sure they are brushed and free of dirt, debris and any tangles in their hair. Also, if it's been a while since you trimmed toenails, you may want to give them a quick trim too.

What do I do on the day of the match?

Get up early! The morning of the match, feed your dog earlier than usual so your dog can do her business before you get on the road.

What to pack

You'll want to bring water, a water bowl, and a brush for last minute grooming, and treats to give your dog after a job well done. Don't forget to pack the very important clean-up bags for potty breaks and a chair for yourself.

On the road

Remember traveling in a crate is the safest form of transportation for your dog. Plus, having the crate at the show will give your dog a place to rest before and after the fun. \

At the show grounds

Make sure you arrive in time if the match accepts entries in the morning. Walk your dog around to get used to the people and other dogs.

At the ring

If you are competing before your scheduled ring time, ask the Ring Steward or club members to give you your armband number (this may take a second to make sure you get the right one). This number is placed around your left upper arm and secured with a rubber band available at ringside. Don't forget comfortable walking shoes so both you and your dog move your best.

Matches are a wonderful way to socialize your dog and have an enjoyable day together!

Want to learn more about all AKC events you and your dog can participate in? Then [click here!](#)