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*Photo: Alicia Adamopoulos*

**CONFORMATION  
DOG SHOWING**



# HOW IS A CONFORMATION SHOW JUDGED?

There are almost 200 recognised breeds in Australia.

Each breed has a standard which is specific to that breed only.

The breed standards are made up of all the physical and temperamental aspects of the breed ranging from the tip of its nose to the tip of its tail.

Standards are based on both the aesthetic points of the dogs and points which come from the reason the breed was developed, in other words its form is to fit its function. As an example arctic breeds have heavy double coats and breeds which have to swim have webbed feet, just to name a few.

Temperament is also important and based on the function the dog is to provide. Guarding instincts are to be expected in guarding breeds, retrieving instincts in gundogs and lap dogs just love cuddles!!

The class a dog is entered in depends on three things, its breed, its sex (dog or bitch) and its age. Each dog entered is judged against its own breed standard, if there is more than one dog entered in the class the judge then places them in the order which is closest to the breed standard.

If there is more than one class entered in a breed then the winners of each class compete for best dog and then best bitch. Finally the best dog and best bitch compete against each other for the prize award of Best of Breed.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What breeds can participate?**

Any breed recognised by the Australian National Kennel Control (ANKC) can participate in dog shows.

### **Does my dog have to have pedigree papers?**

Yes dogs have to be pedigree with papers and they have to be registered on the main register, dogs on the limited register are not eligible to compete.

### **Can my desexed pedigree dog be shown?**

Yes they can because most dog shows hold a special class for neuters. However, they must

be registered with Dogs Qld as being neutered.

### **How old does my dog have to be?**

Dogs can be shown from the day they turn three months of age. Please ensure they have been immunised before bringing them to a dog show.

### **Does it matter how old my dog is?**

There is no upper age limit to showing your dog, the fitness and overall condition of the dog are the deciding factors. Sometimes special veteran classes are held at specialty shows for dogs over seven years of age.

### **Does my dog need to be obedient to be shown?**

Your dog will need to be happy being touched by strangers and will need to be able to gait or run on a lead.

### **How much will it cost?**

Entries fees to dog shows vary depending on the club and where the judge is from, on average most entries are between \$10.00 and \$15.00 per class entered.

### **Do I have to join Dogs Qld?**

Yes. To compete with your dog, all the registered owners will need to be a member of the controlling body of the state they reside in.