

## My First Obedience Show

### Arrival

- Arrive at least an hour before judging commences to give yourself plenty of time to sort out yourself, dogs and vehicle
- Always park as the Car Park Stewards direct – theirs is a thankless task. However, check out the location of the sun before you drive forwards into your space or reverse in. You want to avoid having the sun on the back of your car as much as possible.
- Let your dogs out for a quick toilet break first, making sure you establish where the 'Exercise Areas' are. It's best to keep them on lead for this as you want them to save their energy for their work
- Cover your vehicle if it is likely to be hot

### Booking In

- Leave your dog in the car when you go to book in as you may have to spend a while looking for your rings
- Take a pen with you and if you have been sent a Running Order, check which class and part you are in
- If there is a Ring Plan, usually near the Secretary's desk, check where your classes are, remembering there is likely to be more than one part (there can only be a maximum of 60 dogs in one part)
- Your ring number is usually at the lowest scheduled class you have entered. If you have entered any special class (such as KCGCDS Special Pre-Beginner Stakes) your number will be at your Pre-Beginner ring, unless you have only entered the special class
- At the ring of your lowest scheduled class there will be a Booking In sheet on the desk with all the numbers and Kennel Club registered names of the competitors in that part of the class. Find your dog's name and put a tick against your number. This indicates you have 'booked in'. If you don't do this you will not be allowed to compete.
- DO NOT tick your number off on the large score sheet that will be on the desk – that is for the judge and scoreboard steward's use only
- Numbers will be in an envelope or container on the desk and once you've found your number write on the back of it (or front if there is space marked) the following:
  - Class and part
  - Stay time
  - Judge's Lunch time
- Then go and 'book in' for any other classes you have entered, making sure you note on your number the same information:
  - Class and part
  - Stay time
  - Judge's Lunch time
- If you cannot find your number at the ringside, go to the Secretary's desk and explain that you have been unable to find your number. They will provide you with your number. DO NOT write out your own number as sometimes Secretary's hold

onto numbers if money is owed on the entry or they need more minor detail for the entry form.

- Make sure you wear your number when you are competing, even in the stay ring.
- If you can't find your dog's name on the booking in sheet for any part of the class, go to the Secretary's desk and they will have all the original entry forms there so you can check what classes you entered.

## Running Orders

- Running orders are good news as it takes away the guesswork of when you are going to work one of your classes.
- Bear in mind that not every competitor comes to the show on the day so keep an eye on the Booking In sheet to see how many people have booked in before you. It is your responsibility to be ready to go into the ring when it is your turn on the running order, so even if you are 4<sup>th</sup> in the running order, if the second and third competitors don't turn up, you are effectively in second.
- Also, quite a few people train their dogs if they have a running order and may not do the full round, so may come out of the ring quicker than you were expecting.

## Stays

- Find out early in the day where the Stay Ring is and give yourself plenty of time to toilet your dog and get to the Stay Ring in good time
- You must be punctual as you will not be able to enter the Stay Ring if you are late.
- Always check with a stay steward that you have the right class and part for stays, if you do the wrong stays you cannot then do the right ones.
- Remember to leave any food or toys well away from the ring.
- Before stays commence, you will be asked by the stay steward for your number and breed of dog – tell them both clearly, don't expect them to guess

## Competing

- If you don't have a running order you can choose when you want to work. There may be a sheet on the desk where you can add your number to show where you want to work, but most competitors put their number down with the scoreboard steward. Make sure you find out how many competitors are before you so you have enough time to go and get your dog if you need to.
- Keep an eye on how many competitors are left to work in your classes – it is discourteous to keep the judge waiting when you are the only competitor left to work.
- Keep a check on the scoreboard during the day – you may not think you have worked well, but you may still end up with a place and a rosette!!
- If you decide not to work a class or leave the show early, make sure you let the scoreboard steward know so they can cross you off the list of dogs left to work. If there is no scoreboard steward, you can write 'withdrawn - thank you' alongside your number and dog's name on the booking in sheet. This is common courtesy in any case, but particularly important if you have done stays as a judge will normally wait for someone who has done stays.