

# Showmanship

Gaiting, Stacking, and More

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Good Boy!

# What is Showmanship?

## Showmanship is:

- Showmanship is the sport of presenting your dog to their best advantage
- A way for you and your dog to grow closer ♥♥

## Competing in showmanship:

- Teaches 4-Hers poise & confidence
- Develops 4-Her's good sportsmanship, by competing fairly and winning and losing gracefully



# Is it the way you see on TV?

Yes! Kind of. The AKC shows that you see on TV are conformation shows. At conformation dogs show, like Westminster, handlers show dogs. The dogs are judge on their conformation according to their breed standard. All the breed standards are on the AKC website. But in Junior Showmanship and 4-H showmanship, you are judged ONLY on how you present your dog.



Even though your dog probably won't strut their stuff at Westminster, your goal should be to present your dog like they just won best in show!

# Ring Producer

When you're in the showmanship ring there is a certain way that the ring will run.

Usually the ring is run similar to this, each judge is different so it may vary slightly from show to show.

- 1.) All the handlers in each class will enter the ring by arm band number
- 2.) The judge will rearrange by size/speed, for large classes the judge may split the class so the ring isn't over crowded
- 3.) The judge will watch the class gait around the ring & watch all the members stack their dogs in the line up

4.) The judge will do a exam of each hander's dog, watch the handler stack, gait & ask them knowledge questions, then score them

5.) After each handler has had a turn then judge will dismiss the class, the steward and judge will add up the scores and class will be placed in numerical order. For tie breakers, the judge will has both handlers back into the ring and then will compete again



# Stacking

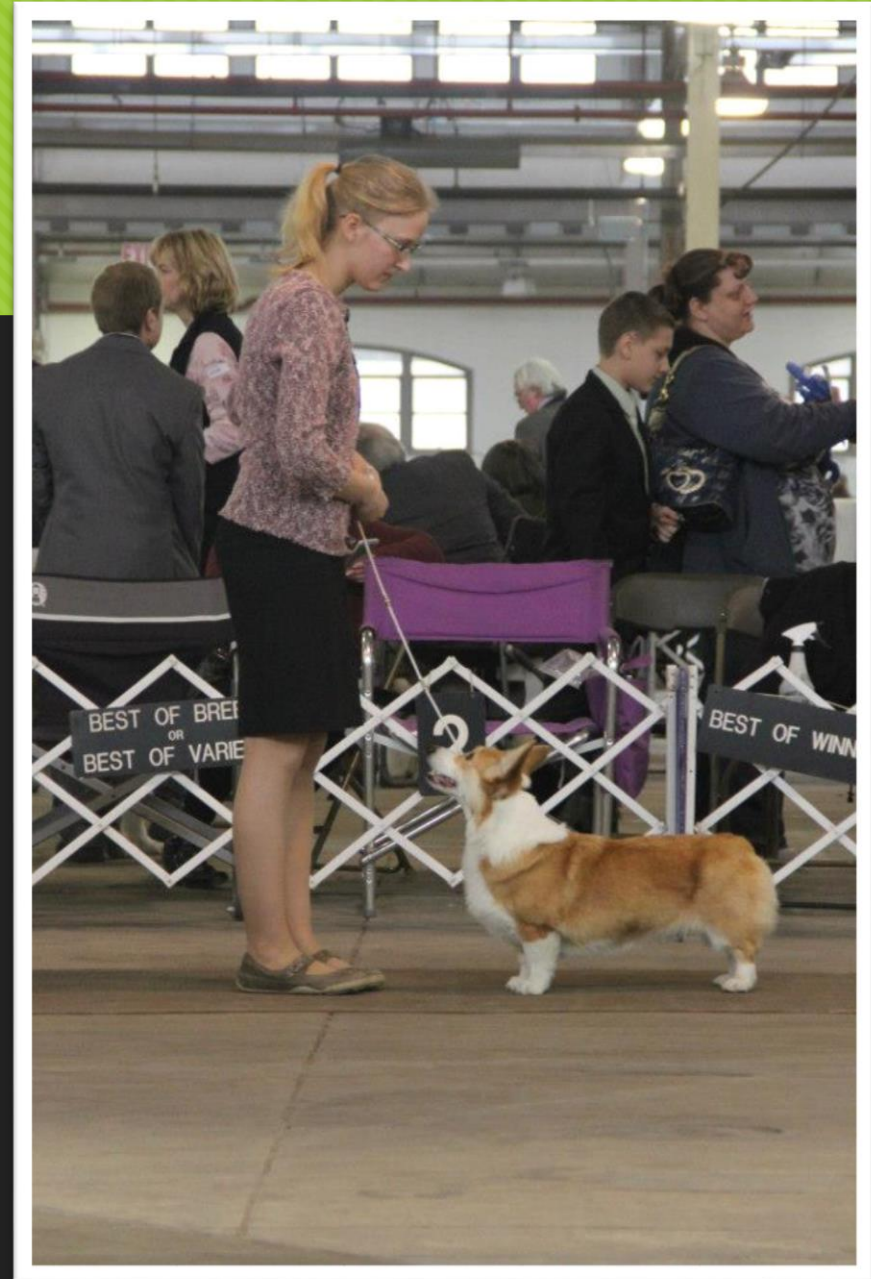
To stack a dog or "hand stack" means to pose it according to the AKC breed standards. If you are showing a mixed breed dog you should choose the breed that your dog most resembles and pose it to that breed's standards. With most breeds, to stack your dog you imagine a straight line from the dog's shoulder down to their front pastern. With the rear legs a straight line should be from the dog's hock to the rear pasterns. The dog should be standing with the legs squarely under them and so that they are standing naturally and comfortably.



Stand with big  
dogs & kneel with  
small dogs

# Free Stacking

Stacking your dog, without touching them. The dog should properly position itself. This takes training & practice, but it looks very professional. You should free stack after every gaiting pattern and you can free stack when in the line up.



# Gaiting

Gaiting is the term for moving your dog at a trot. The trot is the gait between a walk and a canter. And its when the legs make a “V”



When gaiting, it is important to be smooth and move as a team. There are multiple gaiting patterns that the judge may ask you to do.



Run with big dogs  
and walk with  
smaller dogs

# Bait & Toys

- Bait (treats) and toys are allowed in the showmanship ring. It's supposed to be fun and to help you show off the dog's expression. Use bait and toys subtly! The judge wants to see a pretty picture when they look at your dog, not your dog chewing.
- If you use a squeaky toy, only use it during your individual exam, so you don't distract other dogs.
- Some good treats to use for bait are: hot dogs, string cheese, soft treats & dried liver



Kong makes extra tiny squeaky toys that work well for toy motivated dogs

# Grooming

Part of your showmanship score is based on your dogs grooming.

## **Dog should:**

- Be clean and bathed, with no parasites
- Be free from any mats and tangles
- Have clean ears, cleaned with a special ear cleaner, from pet supply stores or your vet, NOT WATER!
- Have short, clean toenails
- Have clean teeth, with minimal tarter build up

Members should do all of the grooming!!

The only exceptions for that rule are:

- Dogs who will not behave when they get their toenails cut, but members are encouraged to work with their dogs on this issue.
- Dogs, like Poodles or Schnauzers, shown by younger members who need hair cuts at the groomer. In this case members should be doing all the grooming, brushing teeth, brushing and combing, cleaning ears, and clipping toenails, between appointments. And members should learning about how to groom their dogs at home.

# Handler's Appearance, the 4-H uniform

## Girls –

- Green knee length skirt, shorts or pants
- Hair should be tied back and not fall in the handlers face
- Jewelry and make up should be tasteful and unobtrusive

## Boys-

- Green or khaki pants
- A tie

## Both-

- A white collared shirt, polo shirts are fine
- A 4-H patch on the left side
- White closed-toe shoes and white socks or nylons



# Judging and Scoring

- Showmanship is judge on a point system, a perfect score is 100. Dogs and Handlers are judge on their exams, gaiting, grooming, etc
- For a break down of scoring visit [http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource001854\\_Rep2657.pdf](http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource001854_Rep2657.pdf)
- The judge will ask each handler a few knowledge questions, these factor into your score.



## 4-H Dog Fitting and Show Score Sheet

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Armband# \_\_\_\_\_

	Possible Points	Points Earned
<b>Dog Condition and Appearance</b>		
____ Brushed without matting		
____ Clean ears	10	
____ Nails trimmed		
____ Dog in good condition, not underweight		
<b>Handler's Appearance = Proper dress, neat and clean exhibitor</b>	5	
<b>Handler's Set Up</b>		
____ Knows how to pose breed correctly		
____ Doesn't lean on dog while posing in front and back of dog	10	
____ Places feet correctly		
____ Correct position of handler		
<b>Judge's Examination</b>		
____ Confident and smooth when moving around dog		
____ Doesn't come between judge and dog	10	
____ Stays out of judge's way		
____ Shows bite correctly		
<b>Gaiting Dog Correctly</b>		
____ Doesn't run too fast		
____ Not a distraction to other dogs	10	
____ Natural smoothness		
<b>Proper Equipment &amp; Holding Lead Correctly</b>		
____ Leash and collar are in good repair and fit properly, appropriate for the dog		
____ Does not let lead hang in dog's face	5	
____ Holds lead properly - in the proper hand		
<b>Proper Control of Dog</b>	10	
<b>Follow Judge's Instructions</b>	10	
<b>Handler's Attitude</b>		
____ Doesn't watch activity outside of ring	10	
____ Polite to the judge or other handlers		
<b>General Knowledge = no more than three questions will be asked regarding dog care, training, grooming, showing and breeds</b>	10	
<b>Ring Procedure</b>		
____ Doesn't over handle dog		
____ Proper set-up & handling	10	
____ Minimum grooming in the ring		
____ Doesn't interfere with dog in front of her/him		
____ Doesn't interfere with handler in front of her/him		
<b>Total Points</b>	100	
<b>Comments:</b>		

# Showing YOUR Breed

Each breed shown a little different. Some breeds you hold the tail, some you don't. Some breeds are only hand stacked, some you only free stack

- Go to the Westminster website, find your breed and watch the video, how is the breed presented? Try to copy what those handlers do with their dogs

<http://www.westminsterkennelclub.org/videoindex.php?year=2013&day=1>

- Mix breed dogs are shown like the breed that looks most like them.



# Finer Points for Senior Members

**Once you have mastered the basics, it's time to start looking for ways to improve.**

- Try to step up your grooming. Start using a dermal for toenails, color enhancing shampoos when bathing and hair products before you go in the ring. Ask the leaders and older members for help on how to groom your breed.
- Recorded yourself practicing and watch it! Were you smooth? Were you graceful? Did your dog look like he just won best in show? Were you and your dog having fun?
- Watch other handlers, see what they do, and practice it at home. Try new things out, like gaiting on a loose lead or standing in a different place when you free bait.



# Resources

- **Westminster Website** for breed videos  
<http://www.westminsterkennelclub.org/videoindex.php?year=2013&day=1>
- **Showmanship Score sheet** on 4-H NH Dog Project website <https://extension.unh.edu/4-H-Animal-and-Ag-Science/4-H-Dog-Page>
- **NH Guide to 4-H Dog Shows** for information on classes, gaiting patterns, explanation of terms, and scoring information [https://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource001854\\_Rep2657.pdf](https://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource001854_Rep2657.pdf)
- The “**Ohio Book**” Chapter 11, pgs 101-110 for excellent information on all things showmanship
- **Oregon State Videos** <https://extension.unh.edu/4-H-Animal-and-Ag-Science/4-H-Dog-Page>, scroll down to the “Dog Project Videos NEW!” and click the links for showmanship videos
- **Rolling Bones** website [http://www.rollingbones4h.org/index.php?resources\\_showmanship](http://www.rollingbones4h.org/index.php?resources_showmanship) for a showmanship overview

# Sources

- ❖ This presentation was created for strictly educational purposes. The majority of photos used were obtained from a google image search, no copy right infringement was intended.
- ❖ Much of the information comes from this webpage  
[http://www.rollingbones4h.org/index.php?resources\\_showmanship](http://www.rollingbones4h.org/index.php?resources_showmanship)