



PREPARING YOUR PUPPY FOR A DAY OF FUN!

Welcome to the AKC 4 to 6 Month Beginner Puppy Competition

Congratulations on your new AKC registered purebred puppy! Puppyhood is an exciting time of exploration for all puppies and yours is no exception. It is also the best time to socialize them by going to new places, meeting new people and discovering new activities. Below are some helpful tips to help you and your puppy get off on the right paw as you have a day of fun at the 4 to 6 Month Beginner Puppy Competition.

How do I enter the 4 to 6 Month Puppy class?

In order to participate in the fun, you must enter your puppy at least two-and-a-half weeks before the show. Every dog show has a **“premium list”** that has all the important information about the show, including an entry form. You must fill out the entry form (either online or by mail) with the information about your puppy and which class you want to enter, i.e. the **4 to 6 Month Beginner Puppy class**.

Each show has a **Superintendent or Show Secretary** who processes all the show entry forms. Contact the Superintendent listed to receive the show’s premium list and entry form or find them online. To complete an entry form, you’ll need your dog’s AKC registration number, a credit card or check and your dog’s AKC registration certificate so you can fill out your puppy’s “official registered” name, her dam’s (mother’s) name, her sire’s (father’s) name as well as her birthdate, breeder’s name and your contact information. You will also check off the 4-6 Month Beginner Puppy class. Once you submit your entry form with entry fee, the Superintendent will send you a confirmation of the entry via mail and email if you entered online.

To view upcoming competitions visit www.akc.org/4-6puppy/

How do I prepare my puppy for the show?

It’s a good idea to have your puppy ready for fun before you go to the show.

Walking on a leash- Your puppy 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- Puppies love people so be prepared for her to meet lots of new people at the show! You may want to get her ready to meet people by taking your puppy to a park or other public spaces to get her used to the activity.

Looking her best- Don’t forget to groom your puppy as part of the preparation. If she is really dirty, as some puppies can be very active outdoors, then maybe a bath a day or two before the show is in order. But, at the very least, make sure she is brushed and free of dirt, debris and any tangles in her hair. Also, if it’s been a while since you trimmed her toenails, you may want to give them a quick trim too.



Isabelle Francis © AKC

One week before the show

You will receive a Superintendent packet in the mail about a week before the show. This packet will contain:

Confirmation entry slip- A single piece of paper with your puppy's name, armband number, class entered and other information will be included in the packet. Take this to the ring with you so you can ask the Ring Steward to give you the right armband number to wear in the ring so the judge can identify you.

Judging program- This multi-page pamphlet contains an index of all breeds at the show. It will tell you how many dogs are entered, what ring number you will be in, what time to be at the ring, and directions to get to the show among other helpful information.



What do I do on the day of the show?

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

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

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

At the showgrounds- Make sure you arrive at least one or two hours before your scheduled ring time so that you can set up a spot to watch the show near your ring, take your puppy for a walk to potty, and then observe the show to get an idea of what to expect in the ring.



At the ring- Before your scheduled ring time, find your ring and ask the Ring Steward to give you your armband number (show her the confirmation entry slip with the number). This number is placed around your left upper arm and secured with a rubber band available at ringside. Don't forget to dress in business casual attire with comfortable walking shoes so both you and your puppy look your best.

This is a wonderful way to socialize your new puppy and have an enjoyable day together!

What will the judge ask me to do in the ring?

Ringside- Once your time has arrived, the Ring Steward will call all the puppies in the class according to armband number into the ring for judging.

Stand in line- At first, all the puppies will stand in line together for the judge to give all those cute puppies a first look.

All together- Then the judge will ask all the puppies to trot around the ring in one big circle together. Following those in front of you, ask your puppy to follow you around the ring in a slow jog until you reach the end of the line.

Meet and greet- You and your puppy can relax for a moment now. The judge will ask each puppy to come up to him for an individual “meet and greet.” At this point, the judge will greet your puppy and ask you to open her mouth to look at her teeth. He will then place his hands around the puppy’s body for further examination.

Strutting pup’s stuff- The judge will ask you to individually trot your puppy around in a “pattern” - maybe a triangle or a straight line- and then back to the end of the line.

Get a ribbon- After all the puppies have been looked at by the judge, you will go around the ring as a group one more time. At this point the judge picks his winners and hands out ribbons. Congratulations!

All done- After you’re done, it’s time to relax with your puppy, give her some water and a treat for being such a good girl. Since you are already at the show, take the opportunity to walk her around the show grounds and see new sights and meet new people.

To learn more about all the AKC Events you and your puppy can participate in visit www.akc.org/dog_shows_trials/



Come join in the fun!

www.akc.org/4-6puppy/



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