

Dog Showmanship

What side of the animal does the showman stay on? How is the halter held?

Dog generally stays on the left side of the handler unless the judge changes position. Halter, known as the leash in the dog division, is neatly bunched up with an “s” pattern into the left hand



How should the animal be squared?

In dogs, squaring is known as stacking. The dog's front feet are squared first, moving them by the elbow, followed by moving the back feet via the knee. When handler is finished with stacking they stand to the front of the dog.

Judges will sometimes move a foot (handle must move it back to proper squared position) Judges will often rotate to make sure handle know always to have the dog between them and the judge

Patterns; How is the animal presented in the ring?

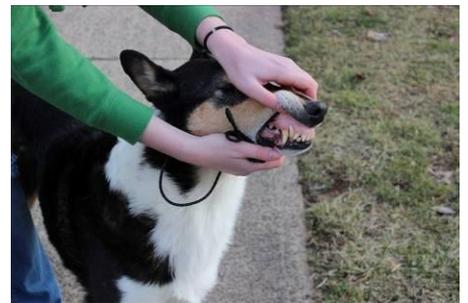
Possible patterns in the ring are:

Triangle – Travel down the ring 45 degrees in front of the judge; turn, go straight; turn again when at a 45 degree angle to judges back.

Down and Back – Go about 30 feet, turn around, and come back to the judge.

Dog should be gaited when being walked. Gaiting is the action of showing off the dogs natural body movements (Small dogs walk and large dogs run)

Showing the bite is the term used for showing the dog's teeth



At the end of the pattern handlers are asked to “free-stack” or square up the dog without touching them. Simply get the dog's attention with treats, squaring in front of handler.

Tips for staying in control of the animal:

Always keep an energetic attitude while keeping the leash neat and taught but not tight.

NEVER CHOKE A SHOW DOG, let them do their thing for you, they won't run away if they are trained well.