

# DRAFT

## GUIDELINES FOR CLUBS WISHING TO CONDUCT DANCES WITH DOGS COMPETITIONS

The following guidelines have been developed as a starting point for individuals and groups interested in DWD. These documents, however, **have NO OFFICIAL STATUS**. They have been drafted by one of our members and input has been provided by others. However, **they are not definitive or authoritative documents** and DWDQ takes no responsibility for their content.

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### 1. Purpose of Guidelines

The ANKC in October 2008 approved rules governing the new discipline of Dances with Dogs (DWD). The requirements associated with the conduct of DWD competitions are somewhat different from those associated with other types of trials and shows. The purpose of these Guidelines is to assist Clubs wishing to conduct such competitions by setting out some of the issues which need to be addressed.

### 2. Appointment of judges

Each DWD competition requires a panel of three judges selected from the list of accredited judges in the various states/territories of Australia or overseas.

To gain a qualifying certificate, competitors must gain qualifying scores under at least two differently composed judging panels. The composition of any panel is regarded as "different" provided that at least one member changes.

*For example, qualifying scores under the following judging panels would represent the minimum level of difference to enable all those scores to be counted towards a title:*

Competitor 1:       A, B and C  
Competitor 2:       A, B and C  
Competitor 3:       A, B and D.

For this reason, when contacting potential judges, it would be useful to ask them for details of the membership of judging panels on which they have served in the last twelve months.

### 3. Competition rings and venues

The minimum requirements for a DWD ring are –

- a minimum ring size of 12 m x 15 m;
- additional space on one side of the ring for the location of the judges; this area must be cordoned off from spectators;
- ropes or markers indicating the ring perimeter, which must be highly visible to competitors and the Judging Panel and not obscure the Judging Panel's vision of competitors;
- a distance of at least 1 m to be reserved, free of spectators, dogs etc, on all sides of the ring;
- an assembly area for competitors;
- in the case of competitions held indoors, the floor must have a non-slip surface.

Written approval to conduct a competition in an environment in which the above minimum requirements cannot be satisfied must be obtained from the CCC(Q) in advance of advertising the event.

Unlike showing, obedience or agility competitions in Australia, which are routinely conducted outdoors, DWD competitions should ideally be held indoors. However, it is recognised that clubs may have difficulty in accessing an indoor facility which meets the above requirements, and hence they are likely to be conducted on regular show/obedience grounds.

In the event that a venue other than regular show, obedience, or AH&I grounds is used, the organising club should notify the CCCQ..

#### **4. Classes offered**

Clubs conducting a DWD competition are normally expected to offer all available titling classes, viz

Dances with Dogs Canine Freestyle

Starters  
Novice  
Intermediate  
Advanced

Dances with Dogs Heelwork to Music

Starters  
Novice  
Intermediate  
Advanced

Additional optional and non-titling classes which may be run at the discretion of the club include the following which may be either Freestyle or Heelwork to Music routines –

- Brace: One handler with two dogs
- Groups: More than two handlers, each with one dog
- Junior: Handlers between the age of 10 and 18 years
- Pairs: Two handlers, each with one dog.

The same judging panel may judge all classes at a single competition. Alternatively a club may appoint different panels for different divisions and/or levels.

#### **5. Advertisement of competition in the *Dog World***

Appendix 4 to the Rules for the Conduct of Dances with Dogs Competitions sets out the information to be included in schedules when advertising DWD competitions. This includes:

- (a) The name of the Affiliate conducting the competition.
- (b) The date and venue at which the competition is to be conducted.
- (c) Details of the venue (such as whether it is an open or roofed/enclosed area, the surface of the ring [eg grass, carpet etc] and the specific dimensions of the ring).
- (d) The closing date for entries.
- (e) The address to which entries should be forwarded.
- (f) Entry fees.
- (g) Divisions and classes offered and the members of the Judging Panel(s) for each.
- (h) Commencing time of vetting, submission of music, music checks and judging.
- (i) Such other information specific to the competition as the Affiliate considers appropriate.

All the above details need to be booked/confirmed before the advertisement is forwarded to the CCCQ for publication in the *Dog World*.

#### **6. Entry form**

Appendix 3 to the Rules for the Conduct of Dances with Dogs Competitions sets out the entry form required to be used for DWD competition entries. This specific form is required because of the additional information competitors are required to provide, above and beyond that required for other canine events.

A competitor can enter any one dog in both Canine Freestyle (CF) and Heelwork to Music (HTM) divisions at the same event, but can only enter any one dog in one level within each of those divisions.

*For example, dog A may be entered in DWDF Novice and DWDHTM Intermediate, but not in DWDF Novice and DWDF Intermediate.*

To be entered in a competition, dogs must be –

- (a) registered with the CCCQ or other state Canine Control;
- (b) of either sex, whether desexed or entire; and
- (c) 12 months of age or over on the date of the competition.

## **7. Music and licences**

All public performances of copyright music of any kind require a licence to be held by the organisation conducting that performance. The CCCQ has taken out a general music licence, which obviates the necessity for competitors and/or individual clubs to obtain such licences.

Clubs conducting DWD performances must, however, provide a sound system appropriate to the venue in which the competition is held. The sound system should be of a standard/type commonly in current usage for playing music – in particular CDs and audio tapes.

It is essential that the music can be clearly heard by the competitors, as well as by the audience. This will often require the provision of loud speakers/amplifiers by the club.

Competitors, however, are responsible for providing their music in a form which can be used successfully on 'average' sound systems. Competitors are required to provide their music to the competition organisers at least 30 minutes in advance of commencement of the competition, and the club is required to test that music to ensure that it plays satisfactorily. If time permits, the selected piece of music should be played through in its entirety; however, if the number of competitors prohibits this, each piece should be played for a sufficient duration to enable the club and the competitor to be assured that it will play satisfactorily and at an adequate volume.

In the case of audio cassettes, the competitor must set the tape to the correct starting point. In the case of CDs, the competitor must advise the track number to be used.

In the event that a competitor's music does not play on the club's sound system and no alternative system is available, the competitor will be required to withdraw and to forfeit his/her entry fee.

## **8. Conduct of event**

### **8.1 Catalogue**

A catalogue must be produced for every DWD competition. The minimum information which should be included relates to –

Event/club conducting the competition  
Date  
Division and class  
Competitor's name  
Dog's name, date of birth, registration number and breed

Name of the piece of music and the artist performing the music (if the music is a compilation, it should be described as such but if possible should also identify the key musical elements).  
Duration of the routine.

## **8.2 Numbers**

All competitors must be assigned a number in the catalogue and a number 'card'. Competitors will be provided with a copy of the catalogue and their number upon registration.

It is not necessary for competitors to wear their number, in the manner required for obedience, conformation etc competitions. However, the competitor will be required to hand their number to the ring steward before entering the ring.

## **8.2 Vetting**

All dogs entered in a DWD competition must be vetted. Bitches in oestrus or showing a coloured discharge of any sort are not permitted to compete in any competition or to remain within the precincts of the competition venue.

## **8.3 Music testing** (see also 7 above)

Competitors are required to provide their music (on CD or audio-tape) to the designated club officer (music steward) at least 30 minutes in advance of commencement of the competition. It is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that the disc or audio-tape clearly identifies the competitor, the title of the track, the number of the track to be used and the duration of the music.

The music steward must test each piece of music before commencement of the competition, to ensure that it plays correctly on the sound system being used for the competition.

The competitor has responsibility for collecting the music at the completion of the class or competition.

## **8.4 Positioning of and furniture for judges**

Judges should be located in a position which ensures that they have full and uninterrupted vision of the entire ring. Normally judges would be located together and on an end of the ring (ie the short, rather than the long side of the ring).

Judges need to be seated and, if possible, each judge should be provided with a small writing desk (or a longer desk/table shared by all three judges); if provision of a desk is not possible, a tablet chair should be provided for each judge.

## **8.5 Judges' mark sheets**

Appendix 2 to the Rules for the Conduct of Dances with Dogs Competitions sets out the template for judges' mark sheets. Each judge must be provided with a sufficient number of judges' mark sheets to enable him/her to record each competitor's scores on a single sheet.

*For example, if there are 8 competitors in a class, a total of 24 judges' mark sheets will be required for that class.*

The judges' completed mark sheets are to be collected by the results steward at the completion of judging of each competitor.

## **8.6 Collection and collating of judges marks**

Judges' mark sheets should be collected at the conclusion of judging and scoring of each competitor. and results from each of the judges' mark sheets are added to the composite score sheet (see 8.8 below).

## **8.7 Qualifying scores**

To obtain a qualifying score a competitor must –

To be awarded a Qualifying Certificate, a competitor must gain -

- (a) a score of at least 10 points in each of the 3 judging categories (*step 1 to a qualifying score*);
- (b) a total of 45 points or more overall (*step 2 to a qualifying score*); and
- (c) a qualifying score overall from at least 2 of the 3 judges (*steps 1 and 2 must be achieved from at least 2 of the 3 judges*).

Qualifying certificates must be provided to all competitors who obtain an overall qualifying score. The Qualifying certificates must-

- (a) indicate the event/club conducting the competition
- (b) indicate the competition date;
- (c) indicate the division and class entered;
- (d) list the total marks allocated by each of the three judges;
- (e) list the aggregate score; and
- (f) be signed by all three judges as well as the competition secretary.

### **8.8 Score boards**

Composite score sheets should be compiled, listing the results awarded by each judge for each component of each competitor's routine, together with the aggregate score awarded to the competitor (ie the sum of the total scores awarded by each judge). Where deductions are incurred, these should be applied before totalling each judge's score. A separate composite score sheet should be provided for each class.

Because of the complexity of scoring, it is preferable to leave posting of the composite score sheets on the score board until conclusion of the event and final checking of the results and placings.

### **8.9 Time / commentary between competitors**

In many circumstances, DWD competitions will be public performances, including a broad audience. This will warrant commentary, including explanation of the competition, promotion of DWD and of dog training and welfare generally as well as introduction of each of the competitors. Provision of commentary between competitors also keeps the audience interested while the judges are calculating their scores.

The introduction of the competitors could include information on the name of the handler, the dog's call name, the dog breed, the age of the dog, the name of the music and the artist performing the music.

In relation to promoting and explaining DWD, mention can be made of its suitability for all types and sizes of dogs, the routines having regard to the dog's structure, size etc, the fact that dogs can wear a fancy collar but no gimmicky clothing or anything that would make the dog look foolish, and the fact that the safety and welfare of the dog are paramount in deciding the moves to be included in the routines.

### **8.10 Personnel required**

The following roles need to be performed at every DWD competition, though it may be possible for one person to perform two (or more) roles:

- Assembly steward
- Commentator/announcer
- Music steward
- Results steward