

# Dog Show Handling: The Ins and Outs

Dog show handling is a complex and rewarding skill that takes time, practice, and dedication to master. In this article, we'll take a look at the ins and outs of dog show handling, from choosing the right dog to preparing for the show ring.

The first step to becoming a successful dog show handler is choosing the right dog. Not all dogs are cut out for the show ring, and it's important to find a dog that has the right temperament and physical characteristics to succeed.

Here are some things to look for when choosing a dog for show:



## Dog Show Handling: The Ins and Outs by Elliott Lang

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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- **Temperament:** A good show dog should be friendly, outgoing, and confident. They should be able to handle the stress of being in a crowd and being handled by strangers.
- **Physical characteristics:** A good show dog should have the correct conformation for their breed. They should also be healthy and well-

groomed.

Once you've chosen the right dog, it's time to start preparing for the show ring. This involves training your dog to behave properly in the ring, grooming them to perfection, and conditioning them to be able to withstand the rigors of show day.

Here are some tips for preparing your dog for the show ring:

- **Training:** Start training your dog as early as possible. The more training they have, the better they will be able to handle the show ring environment. Teach your dog to walk on a loose leash, stay in place, and come when called. You should also practice handling your dog so that they are comfortable with being touched and examined by strangers.
- **Grooming:** Your dog's appearance is important in the show ring, so it's important to groom them to perfection. This includes brushing their coat, bathing them, and trimming their nails. You may also want to consider using a professional groomer to get your dog show-ready.
- **Conditioning:** Show day can be a long and tiring day for your dog, so it's important to condition them to be able to withstand the rigors of the day. This involves gradually increasing the amount of time your dog spends standing, walking, and running. You can also practice taking your dog to shows and events so that they can get used to the sights and sounds of the show ring.

On show day, it's important to remain calm and focused. Your dog will pick up on your energy, so it's important to project a positive and confident attitude.

Here are some tips for handling your dog in the show ring:

- **Be prepared:** Make sure you have everything you need for the show ring, including your dog's leash, grooming supplies, and water. You should also dress appropriately and be prepared to spend a long day on your feet.
- **Enter the ring with confidence:** When you enter the ring, do so with confidence and purpose. Hold your dog's leash firmly and keep your head held high.
- **Show your dog off to its best advantage:** When the judge is examining your dog, take your time and show them off to their best advantage. Highlight your dog's best features and make sure they are standing up straight and looking their best.
- **Be a good sport:** Win or lose, be a good sport. Congratulate the winners and thank the judge. Remember, dog shows are a competition, but they are also a celebration of the bond between humans and dogs.

Dog show handling is a complex and rewarding skill that takes time, practice, and dedication to master. However, if you are willing to put in the effort, it can be a great way to bond with your dog and have some fun along the way.



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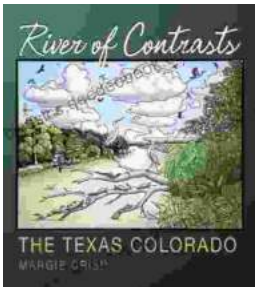
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