



2018 NATIONAL DOG SHOW

PORIRUA

4-6 OCTOBER

PROSSER ST

Paws N Music Competition Rules

1. Official categories.

There are three official categories, Heelwork to Music, Freestyle and Pairs/Group.

- a. **Heelwork to Music** The principle element in Heelwork to Music category will be the dog working off lead in the heel work position, on the left or right hand side of the handler, facing forwards or backwards, across the front or back of the handler, moving in any direction, at any pace. The dog's shoulder should be approximately level with, and reasonably close to the handler's leg. All other positions are defined as Freestyle. A minimum of two-thirds of the routine should consist of heelwork.
- b. **Freestyle** A Freestyle routine will be the dog working off lead and contain movements in any position. Heelwork as described above is acceptable although such movements must not exceed one third of the routine.

2. Official Classes.

For the Heelwork to Music and Freestyle categories there are two eligible Classes, Elementary and Open.

- a. **Elementary** This Class is for handlers and/or dogs which have not previously won any Paws and Music Class.
 - b. **Open** This Class is open to all comers.
 - c. **Pairs/Group** A routine which involves more than one dog in either Heelwork to Music or Freestyle.
3. In the event of dogs obtaining equal marks in HTM or Freestyle competitions, the Accuracy and Execution of Movement mark will decide the result. In a Freestyle competition, the Musical Interpretation mark will decide the result.
 4. When assessing a routine the judges should take into account any degree of departure from the Regulations for handlers and dogs.
 5. Where applicable judges should mark to one decimal place, ie. 7.1
 6. Excessive barking must be penalised and a maximum of 4 marks can be deducted from the overall score at the judge's discretion.
 7. The ring will not be less than 15m x 15m.
 8. Dogs may only wear dressed collars or scarves.
 9. Only dogs over 6 months of age are eligible to be entered.
 10. Handlers may enter more than one division but may not use the same routine.
 11. The use of voice and body language is encouraged and handlers may make contact with dogs with no penalty incurred.
 12. No food will be allowed in the competition ring apart from in Elementary. Any food used in this exception should be held within a sealed bag/container and must not be given to the dog within the confines of the competition ring.

13. Handlers must provide their own music. (Event manager to be advised beforehand whether a CD or USB will be used.) It must clearly marked with handler's name and contain only one track. It is advisable to bring two copies of the music with one for backup.

Disqualification of Dogs. A dog shall be disqualified from competition if it:-

- a. Fouls in the ring.
- b. Is a bitch in season.
- c. Is suffering from any contagious or infectious disease.
- d. Is interfering with the safety or chance of winning of another competitor.
- e. Is of such temperament or is so out of control as to be a danger to any person or other animal.
- f. Is likely to cause suffering to the dog by continuing to compete.

Judges Marking Criteria

There must be three judges for each class. Each judge will mark all three sections of the Judging Criteria as follows:

a. Programme Content – 20 marks

1. The programme should be varied with no excessive repetition of moves, befitting the category entered.
2. Degree of difficulty of movements should be taken into account.
3. Teamwork displays harmony, a strong relationship and enjoyment between dog and handler. The movements of the dog should have a greater impact than those of the handler.

b. Accuracy and Execution of Movement – 20 marks

1. Accuracy of the heelwork/position/moves and the dogs speed in responding. A smooth flow from one move to the next by both handler and dog.
2. The dog should work in a natural and willing manner.
3. The quality of moves and the extent of mistakes and/or refusals. Any props should be appropriate to the routine.

c. Musical Interpretation – 20 marks

1. Interpretation of the music, reflecting rhythm and phrasing of the music in changes and moves. The routine should include balance, structure and make the best use of space.
2. The programme flows and is not a series of disjointed movements
3. Movements are complementary to the programmes concept
4. Handlers attire is appropriate and enhances the routine
5. Emphasis of interpretation is on the dog's movements though the handler may be expressive