**Showmanship Tips**

* Practice stacking and gaiting.
* Make sure your dog is clean, toe nails trimmed, and eyes clean and the coat brushed out without mats. You have to start brushing weeks before the show…..not days. Dogs should be freshly bathed. Ears should be clean and properly trimmed, free of parasites and wax. Teeth should be free from tartar.
* Practice all patterns and hand-leash exchanges well ahead of the show.
* Be prepared to answer questions about dogs, their health and care and about your particular breed (if purebred), or type of dog (if mixed breed).
* Wear comfortable, flat, fitting, nonslip shoes. Flip flops, heels, and boots are not appropriate.
* Choose an outfit that is neat and clean, allows you to comfortably jog, kneel and lean over, and still appear neat and good in taste. Hair should be held out of the eyes and tastefully styled.
* Handler is polite to the judge and other exhibitors, does not talk unnecessarily in the ring and observes common ring courtesies.
* Handler moves at correct gaiting speed, lead held properly, does not pass others, has proper space maintained between dogs, hand changes are done smoothly.
* Handler controls dog at all times, stacks dog quickly and well in proper pose for breed, remains stacked unless told to do otherwise.
* Handler moves around dog as necessary while gaiting or stacking to keep dog between self and judge.
* Exhibitor must do 1 pattern selected by judge. Extra patterns may be asked. No unnecessary hand changes while gaiting. When showing bite, the dog’s mouth is pointed toward the judge and all front teeth are exposed.
* Handler may be asked questions regarding parts of anatomy, breed history or standard, care or health.
* Attention to the judge, handler poise, and confidence.