

In the Ring: It's Showtime!

Make an impression the first time you step into the ring.

By Anne H. Bowes

As you wait for the ring steward to call you and your dog into the ring, you realize this is what you have trained for and dreamed of ever since you brought home that promising show puppy.

Mentally review the game plan you worked on in handling class. Think about the best way your dog looks when standing, what pace is ideal and how you should set your dog up for the individual exam. Everything goes much faster in the ring than you think it will, so concentrate on your plan to stay focused.

You may be bursting with excitement, but pay attention at this crucial moment so you can hear the steward call the dogs in numerical order. Double-check that your armband is in place on your left arm and walk into the ring.

First impressions

Remember the old adage: "You never get a second chance to make a first impression." The moment you step into the ring, you and your dog are on stage. Enter as if you have the best dog there and maintain that attitude the entire time. Trot your dog in with both your heads held high.

Want to read the full story? Pick up the November 2009 issue of DOG WORLD today, or subscribe to receive the best dog articles, dog news, and dog information every month!