

RING CRAFT

Meticulous attention to the most minute detail is a must, if you wish to show your dog to its best advantage.

Before a show both the handler and the dog must undergo some degree of preparation

R Really make sure the dog is clean. Bathed if necessary, 24 hours before the show. Do not bathe too frequently and make sure you rinse well!! Do not have a white dog looking a shade of grey, this is an insult to both the dog and the judge. Chalk is no substitute

I It must be groomed, as regular attention to the coat and skin is needed in all breeds, even if the coat is short. Brush at least once a day as this removes dead hair and gives you a chance to spot early on any skin problems that can arise

N Noses can become dry so apply minute touches of Vaseline

G Get your dog under control at all times whether out and about or at a show, a controlled dog can be "shown off" to his best advantage. A Judge needs to be able to go over the dog thoroughly and judge his movement

C Clean inside the ears as well as the outside. If there are any signs of irritation check for wax build up or eczema etc.

R Realise that if you have a dark dog, you should wear light coloured clothing – a light coloured dog will of course be set off better if you wear dark clothing

A A regular check of the teeth will spot the formation of tartar which can often occur in the young dog that is on a sloppy diet

F Feet and nails need attention. Look out for inter-digital cysts. Nails do need a regular check, in some dogs, regular cutting. If left too long movement and balance is affected. Regular road work may help

T Training, handling plus clothing all play their part in making your dog stand out – GOOD LUCK