



ESSC SE Branch Newsletter

Home Corner...

Hello again to all our Branch members – all the committee hope that you are keeping well and managing to keep safe and sane during the new lockdown. This newsletter brings our best wishes to you and to your dogs – please do keep in touch with us.

2023 Meetings:

Our planned meeting dates are:

14th May

11th June

23rd July – Garden Party

17th September

29th October

3rd December – Christmas Party

<https://www.essc-southeast.co.uk/>

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Points Trophies

Our points trophies are awarded at our December Meeting. All dogs who compete throughout the year can earn points in classes as follows:

1st Place = 10 points

2nd Place = 8 points

3rd Place = 6 points

4th Place = 4 points

5th place = 2 points

There are 3 additional points awarded for Best Companion, Best Puppy, Best Veteran and Reserve Best in Meeting. Best in Meeting gets an extra 5 points.

The trophies awarded based on points are:

Best Puppy

Best Adult

Best Veteran

Best Puppy Companion

Best Companion

Best Veteran Companion

Best Bitch

Best Dog

Best Sable

Best Tri-colour

Best Blue Merle

Best Stud Dog

Best Brood Bitch

So you want to show your Sheltie...

Having a Sheltie in the family means that if you want to you can also get involved in some dog related hobbies. In this article we will share with you some basic information to get you started. Remember you can always ask questions at branch meetings or via our Facebook Page if you want to know more.

What are the different types of Dog Show?

Breed shows – At a Breed show your sheltie will be judged against the Kennel Club Standard for the breed. In theory the dog closest to the standard wins the class.

Obedience shows – At obedience shows there are set exercises for your sheltie to master at various levels. Marks are lost for not completing a task “perfectly” e.g. if your dog is retrieving a dumb bell and drops it instead of waiting for you to take it a mark would be lost. The dog losing the least marks in each class wins.

Agility shows – Your sheltie will need to learn how to safely tackle a number of different types of obstacles such as jumps, tunnel, see-saw and dog walk. The winner is the dog who completes the round in the quickest time with the fewest mistakes.

Companion Shows – often offer you the chance to have a go at some or all of the above. They are less formal and you can pay on the day to join in.

How do I find out about Breed Dog Shows?

You might want to start out in Companion dog shows and these are often advertised locally or in local social media groups. There is a Facebook group that does also list some shows - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/326834930752246/>

If you are ready for the more formal Shows there are some different categories:

Open Show (General) – there are lots held locally and Sheltie classes range from 6 to 30 dogs depending on the show. This is the type of show most people start out at.

Open Breed Show (Shelties) – These are limited to just Shelties. There are classes ranging from Puppy to Veteran and there are dog and bitch classes for each.

Championship General Shows – This level is the most competitive as Challenge Certificates are on offer! A challenge Certificate (or CC) is awarded to the best bitch and best dog and three are needed from different judges to be a champion. There are classes ranging from Puppy to Veteran and there are dog and bitch classes for each.

Championship Breed Show (Shelties) – Similar to the single breed Open shows but with CCs on offer

There are two main websites to enter these shows all of which have to be entered some time in advance: <https://www.fossedata.co.uk> and <https://www.highampress.co.uk>

What is the judge looking for in Breed?

When judging the Shetland Sheepdog judges are comparing the dog in front of them with the Breed standard. Shelties that are “show quality” tend to be close to the standard. Some companion shelties may not be show quality (but are still the best in the world of course) because they are too big, too small, have ears the stand up or flop too low, thin coats etc. You can read more about the Breed Standard by clicking this link -

<https://essc.org.uk/std.htm>

How do dogs qualify for Crufts in Breed?

Qualifying for Crufts for the first time involves winning first, second or third in specific classes at Championship Shows. It is also possible to qualify by being placed in a Group at a special kind of Open Show called a Premier Open Show. Group is the level where all the Best of Breed Winners compete. Dogs can also qualify for life when they win some of the top awards.

So you want to show your sheltie continued...

How can I learn how to show my dog?

If you want to show your sheltie in breed classes a good place to start is at our Branch meetings. You may also want to find a local Ring Craft Class close to where you live. There is a class run in Wilmington, Kent alongside an Obedience Class. Both the Ringcraft and Obedience classes are taught by Branch Members. This means there is extra emphasis on training your Sheltie in Ring skills and/or obedience.

Classes at Branch Meetings

We have two categories of class at our branch meetings, Companion and Show. Companion Classes are for all dogs who have never been exhibited at Open Shows and Championship Shows. Show dogs do not enter Companion classes. Your dog is a show dog as soon as you have entered him/her in their first show. From that point this particular dog can only enter Show Classes. Companion dogs can enter Show classes but not Companion classes in the same meeting. Show Classes are for dogs that do enter Open Shows and Championship Shows although Companion dogs can also enter. If you have more than one sheltie it is okay to have one dog in Companion Classes and one in Show Classes.

Companion Classes	
Puppy	Open to puppies up to 12 months old
Adult	1 year to 6 years old
Veteran	7 years and above
Show Classes	
Baby Puppy	Vaccinated puppies under 6 months
Minor Puppy	6 to 9 months old
Puppy	9 to 12 months old
Junior	For dogs of 6 months and not exceeding 18th months
Post Graduate	For dogs which have not won a Challenge Certificate/CACIB/CAC/Green Star or five or more First Prizes at Championship Shows in Post Graduate, Minor Limit, Mid Limit, Limit and Open classes, whether restricted or not where Challenge Certificates were offered for the breed.
Limit	For dogs which have not become show Champions under Kennel Club Regulations or under the rules of any governing body recognised by the Kennel Club, or won 3 or more CC/CACIB/CAC/Green Stars or won 7 or more First Prizes in all at Championship Shows in Limit or Open Classes, confined to the breed, whether restricted or not, at Shows where Challenge Certificates were offered for the breed.
Open	Open to all
Veteran	7 years and above

The winner of each Companion Class then competes for Best Companion in Meeting. Each Show Class winner competes for Best in Meeting with a Reserve Best in Meeting also awarded. A Best Puppy in Meeting is also awarded as well as a Best Veteran in Meeting.

Unbeaten Dogs

At branch meetings you may hear us calling for "unbeaten dogs". This is another name for class winners as they have not been beaten by another dog. In some cases a dog who has not won its class may be able to compete for a "Best in" award. For example, a dog who is under 12 months old has come 2nd in Junior but the dog placed 1st in Junior is over 12 months. The 2nd placed dog has not been beaten by another puppy and can therefore compete for Best Puppy in Meeting.. The same would apply to a veteran shown in another class. After Best in Meeting has been awarded the judge may choose to "call in" the dog who came second to the winner in their class. They can compete for Reserve Best in Meeting as they are unbeaten by the other class winners, only by the winner of Best in Meeting.

If you would like to ask any questions about showing your sheltie, please ask a member of the committee

Crufts Report...

Congratulations to all our branch members who exhibited at Crufts 2023. Just qualifying is a fabulous achievement and taking home a place card is the cherry on top!

Post Graduate Dog

4th Sarah Clough with Evad Lite Breeze (Coco)

Good Citizen Dog Scheme Dog

4th Sarah Clough with Evad Lite Breeze (Coco)

5th Sonya Barnett with Dippersmoor Daquiri at Sonspirit (Merlot)

Veteran Bitch

4th Angela Mitchell's with Sendora One for the Road (Remy)

Minor Puppy Bitch

3rd Angela Mitchell's with Valdosta Goddess (Shay)

Junior Bitch

2nd Lili Mettan-Ure with Oakcroft Simply Starstruck at Savendie JW (Aspen)

Good Citizen Dog Scheme Bitch

5th Lili Mettan-Ure with Valdosta Dare to Dream at Savendie (Quinn)



Good Citizen Dog Scheme Testing Date...

We are also hoping to hold a Good Citizen Dog Scheme testing day at our June 11th branch meeting. If you are interested in taking your Bronze, Silver or Gold test please let our secretary, Lilian Mettan-Ure, know by May 14th. Please email lilianmettan_ure@hotmail.com

For those who are unsure if they would like to take their Bronze tests we are happy to hold a mock test at our May meeting.

The requirements for each test can be found here:

Bronze –

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/3512/gcdsbronze.pdf>

Silver –

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/1929/gcdsilver.pdf>

Gold –

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/3513/gcdsgold.pdf>