

Dances With Dogs Club of SA Inc.: TRICK DOG ROOKIE RULES

1. The Rookies Classes will be held following the conclusion of the official test.
2. The entrants will be treated as a normal Trick Dog competitor, except where noted in these rules. Therefore, the usual test practices will take place such as:
 - a. Undertake, registration, vetting, etc.
 - b. Appear in the catalogue in separate classes TK.S to TK.A.
 - c. Set-up, performance & set-down to follow usual sequence but in regards timings:
 - i. Entrants are encouraged not to rush their start; they may walk their dog around the ring, warm-up their dog & only start when they feel they have their dog's focus & the dog appears ready to work.
 - ii. At the end of the performance, the entrant may take some time to briefly reward dog with play/food in ring.
 - d. A dog can only enter in a single class within Rookies. Note: A dog may enter both titling and non-titling classes if held on the same day, as they are separate tests.
 - e. Judges shall ensure safety, good sportsmanship & fair treatment of the dog, & that the Handler is complying with the Rookie rules whilst in the ring. Failure to follow these rules may result in the Handler being disqualified from further competition.
3. Exceptions to the usual Trick Dog rules are:
 - a. Non-SACA members allowed to enter, but must be Club members.
 - b. Dogs may be on or off lead (lead can be attached and unattached during the performance).
 - c. Motivators:
 - i. Non-Crumbly food treats may be used, avoiding dropping food on the floor.
 - ii. An optional treat table will be at ringside.
 - iii. Food includes toys with food inside of them.
 - iv. Non-squeaking motivators allowed & may be thrown within the ring.
 - d. If a dog leaves ring & the handler feels that this was due to stress, the handler should either leave the ring or bring their dog back for a brief positive reinforcement behaviour. If the handler believes the dog has left the ring due to being distracted, the handler is welcome to continue with their performance.
 - e. Tests not judged, but judge's set-up is as per the test (i.e. a judge standing within the ring). While no scoring will be made the judge may if requested by the handler, do some or all of the following:
 - i. Read out the trick titles.
 - ii. Ask if handler is "ready".
 - iii. Advise the handler to "commence".
 - f. No prizes or awards are to be given out for rookies.
 - g. Rookie and Test Class Eligibility:
 - i. A dog may participate in any Rookie class for which they meet or exceed the requirements for the corresponding Trick Dog titling Class.
 - ii. A Handler cannot decide on the day to change their normal entry to Rookie or vice-versa.