

HEELWORK TO MUSIC

What is Heelwork To Music?

Heelwork to Music is a competition giving handlers an opportunity to demonstrate skilful movements by their dog and to perform heelwork and freestyle movements in a combined manner that interprets the chosen music and reflects the dog and handler working as a team.

Competitions

Qualifying heats will take place around the Country throughout the year at larger Heelwork to Music shows, as listed in the Crufts qualifiers booklet.

Only dogs of 12 calendar months of age and over on the day of competition are eligible for entry into any of the YKC heelwork to music classes.

Definitions of Classes

The competition is open to all YKC members aged 6 years and up to, but not including 18th birthday handling any Kennel Club registered dog.

There are six classes in each age category as listed below:

Under 12 (Handlers 6 years and up to, but not including 12th birthday)

* YKC Elementary	Heelwork to Music	Freestyle
* YKC Primary	Heelwork to Music	Freestyle
* YKC Open	Heelwork to Music	Freestyle

12 and over (Handlers 12 years and up to, but not including 18th birthday)

* YKC Elementary	Heelwork to Music	Freestyle
* YKC Primary	Heelwork to Music	Freestyle
* YKC Open	Heelwork to Music	Freestyle

Elementary: For members who have not won a First Prize in any YKC Heelwork to Music class.

Primary: For members who have not won two or more First Prizes in any YKC Heelwork to Music class (Elementary exempt)

Open: For members that have won out of the Primary class in that category.

There are two official categories, Heelwork to Music and Freestyle. Each category has equal status, and the following class structure applies to both categories:-

Heelwork to Music. The principal element of Heelwork to Music category will be the dog working off lead in the heel work position, on the left or right hand side of the handler, facing forward or backward, across the front or back of the handler, moving in any direction, at any pace. The dog's shoulder should be approximately level with, and reasonably close to the handler's leg. All other positions are defined as Freestyle. A minimum of two thirds of the routine should consist of heelwork.

Freestyle. A Freestyle routine will be the dog working off lead and contain movements in any position. Heel work as described above is acceptable although such movements must not exceed one third of the routine.

When assessing eligibility to enter a YKC Heelwork to Music competition, wins in one category will not count for the other category i.e. a dog that has won out of YKC Primary Heelwork to Music may still compete in the YKC Primary Freestyle class. Dogs may be entered in eligible classes in both categories, however a different routine must be worked.

A dog must be entered in the lowest scheduled official class for which it is eligible and may only be entered in the same category once.

Music

Each member should provide their own music. It can be CD (clearly marked with the track to be used) or audio cassette tape with the music at the beginning of a blank tape. It is advisable to bring two copies of the tape or CD with one for back up.

Length of Music

Elementary classes – up to 2 minutes

Primary classes – up to 2 ½ minutes

Open classes – up to 3 minutes

An over-run of 5% is permitted, but 2 marks will be deducted from the final score for any time taken in excess of this.

Dress

Costume appropriate to the routine is encouraged. Dogs may only wear dress collars.

Crufts 2009 Qualification Procedure

You can qualify at YKC Heelwork to Music heats, as listed in the Crufts qualifiers booklet. At these heats the first and second placed member from each subdivision will qualify provided there are at least six dogs entered into the division. If there are less than six dogs only the first place will qualify.

The class winner of each category will automatically qualify for the same class at Crufts 2009. If he/she wins the same class more than once in the calendar year he/she will remain in that class. If he/she should win a higher class in the qualifying year, he/she will be eligible to enter the higher class at Crufts 2009.

Can a member run a dog that has already qualified?

Yes, but if it wins the next placed member and dog will qualify for Crufts 2009 and so on.