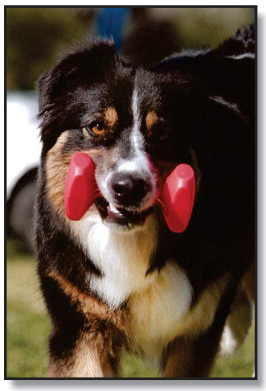
KUSA DOGSPORT

WHAT IS DOGSPORT?

Competitions where dogs are judged on their ability to carry out a range of exercises. The dogs are not judged on their structure or conformation.

KUSA offers a wide range of Dogsport activities catering to very diverse interests. Most Dogsport has a minimum age requirement for dogs before they begin to compete. Usually 6 months or older (in Dogsport incorporating jumps). You can start training at any stage but generally the sooner the better.

Dogsport Activities



Obedience – this is the dog equivalent of horse dressage. Dogs must carry out exercises such as heelwork, retrieves, recalls, send-aways, stays and scent, with a high level of precision. Dogs progress from Beginners to Novice, Class A, Class B and Class C. In Class C dogs strive to earn Qualifying Certificates to make their dogs champions.

Rally Dog – encompasses exercises from a range of Dogsports. Rally competitors negotiate a course with designated stations, the dog in heel position. At each station an exercise is performed and the dog and handler are marked on their ability to execute the commands at the stations correctly, as well as the connection between dog and handler. The emphasis of Rally Dog is for the dog and handler to work as a team whilst having fun. Dogs progress through Novice, Advanced, Excellent, Masters and Grand Masters. Dogs can gain the tile of Champion in the Masters class.

Working Trials – this sport requires a well-rounded dog. The exercises are divided into three groups: Control (obedience type exercises), Agility (clear jump, long jump and A-frame) and Nosework (various searches and a track). Dogs must qualify in all sections at a show and achieve a minimum aggregate mark to qualify. Dogs competing in the highest grades, Tracker Dog III and Police Dog (which also contains bitework or protection exercises) can be made into Champions.

Tracking Trials – dogs are required to follow a human scent trail. The delay on a track (the time the dog is put onto the track after it is laid by a tracklayer) varies from 20 minutes to 3 hours. Dogs can become Champions in the Tracker Trials 5 class.

Agility (Contact and Non-contact) – dogs are required to navigate a course of obstacles without making mistakes and within the time allowed. Obstacles include jumps, long jumps, tunnels, tyre-jumps and weave poles. Contact Agility includes an A-frame, See-saw and Dog Walk where the dog is required to touch the lower painted portion of the obstacle before completing the course. Dogs become champions in Grade 3. Jump heights vary depending on the size of the dog.

for purebred *and* crossbred dogs

email info@kusa.co.za to find out more

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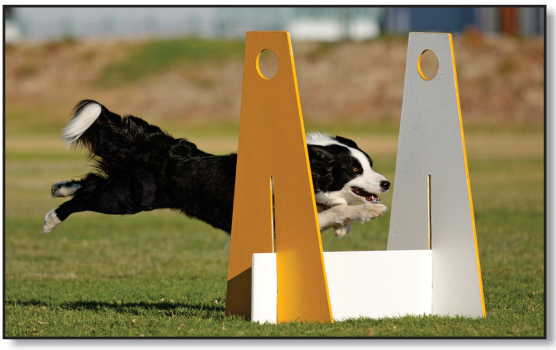
Dog Jumping – similar to Agility, dogs must successfully navigate a course of obstacles. Generally dogs that have run a clear round go through to a jump-off to determine the winner. Dogs become champions in Grade 1 having moved up from Grade 2. Jump heights vary depending on the size of the dog.



Flyball – this is the only team sport offered by KUSA. A team of four dogs run a relay race, over four jumps to a box that releases a ball into the dog's mouth. Two teams run against each other at a time, each in their own lane. Following a round-robin format, the winner is declared based on a combination of fastest times and clean runs (i.e. dogs don't drop the balls or miss a jump). Points are accumulated on race times and champion status is reached when a dog achieves a certain number of points.

Dog Dancing (Musical Freestyle and Heelwork to Music) – dogs perform a series of moves in time to music. They are judged on both technical merit and artistic impression. Musical Freestyle allows for creativity of movement and requires some distance moves whereas Heelwork to Music restricts the distance a dog can be from its handler. Dogs progress through Beginners to Novice, Intermediate and Advanced where they can achieve Champion status.

Carting – dogs pull a cart around a course laid out by the judge. They are required to execute sharp turns, curves and work at fast, normal and slow pace. Dogs must also be able to backup and work past distractions. They negotiate specific tasks like a narrow area, and must wait at a gate and also recall. Dogs can become Champions in the Seniors class having first qualified through Novice.

IGP (Internationale Gebrauchshunde Prüfungsordnung) - IGP consists of three phases: Tracking, Obedience and Protection. The emphasis is on precision with prescribed heelwork patterns and track patterns. Assessing the instinctive behaviour, self-confidence, ability to cope with stress, grip performance and obedience is done over the entire protection routine. The dog has to show self-confidence and power any time when searching for the helper. Dogs can achieve the title of champion in IGP3, and must pass all three phases in order to qualify.

All Breeds!

email www.kusa.co.za for more details