



Dog Trick and Dog Costume Guidelines for Paws for Purpose

Objective: Ensure a fun, safe, and inclusive environment for all participants showcasing their dogs in the Dog Trick and Dog Costume contests.

General Participation Rules

1. Eligibility:

- All dogs participating in the contests must be registered for the event.
- Owners must sign a liability waiver during registration.

2. Behavioral Standards:

- Dogs must remain under control and on a leash at all times, except during specific off-leash tricks in a designated area.
- Aggressive or disruptive dogs may be disqualified and asked to leave the contest area.

3. Health and Safety:

- Participating dogs must be in good health and up to date on vaccinations.
 - Owners must provide water and monitor their dogs for signs of stress or fatigue.
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Dog Trick Contest Guidelines

1. Performance Rules:

- Tricks must be safe for the dog and all participants.
- Props may be used but must be pre-approved by event staff.

- Each trick performance is limited to **3 minutes**.

2. Judging Criteria:

- **Creativity:** How unique and entertaining is the trick?
- **Execution:** How well is the trick performed?
- **Dog-Handler Connection:** How effectively does the handler communicate with the dog?
- **Audience Engagement:** How well does the trick captivate the crowd?

3. Awards:

- Awards will be given for categories such as **Best Trick, Most Creative Trick,** and **Crowd Favorite.**
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Dog Costume Contest Guidelines

1. Costume Rules:

- Costumes must be safe and comfortable for the dog.
- Costumes that restrict movement, impair vision, or pose a safety hazard are not allowed.
- Offensive or inappropriate costumes will not be permitted.

2. Judging Criteria:

- **Creativity:** How unique and original is the costume?
- **Execution:** How well is the costume fitted and designed?
- **Theme:** How well does the costume align with the event theme or a specific concept?
- **Dog Comfort:** How comfortable does the dog appear in the costume?

3. Awards:

- Awards will be given for categories such as **Best Costume, Most Creative Costume,** and **Best Themed Costume.**
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Registration and Check-In

1. Pre-Event Registration:

- Participants must register their dogs for the contests during event registration or on-site before the contests begin.

2. Check-In:

- Contest participants must check in at least **30 minutes** before their scheduled contest time.
 - Dogs will receive a participation number for identification during judging.
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Additional Information

1. Spectator Rules:

- Spectators are encouraged to cheer respectfully and avoid distracting the dogs during performances.

2. Photographs and Media:

- By entering the contests, participants grant permission for photos and videos to be used for promotional purposes.
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By following these guidelines, participants and spectators can ensure a safe, enjoyable, and memorable experience at Paws for Purpose.