

GUIDELINES FOR DOG WELLBEING AT THE WORLD DOG SHOW 2025



Dog wellbeing is the primary right of every dog in the show!

By participating in a show organised by the Finnish Kennel Club, you agree to comply with all of the Finnish Kennel Club's rules, guidelines and regulations, the non-compliance of which may lead to a sanction imposed by the Finnish Kennel Club's Board or Ethical Committee. The Finnish Kennel Club's guidelines and rules as well as these welfare guidelines for the World Dog Show 2025 are based on Finnish animal welfare legislation.

GENERAL

The Animal Welfare Act requires dogs to be treated with respect, and dog shows must not endanger their health or wellbeing.

Ethical Guidelines of the Finnish Kennel Club (<https://www.kennelliitto.fi/en/forms/ethical-guidelines-finnish-kennel-club>) applies to all those participating in dog activities organised by the Finnish Kennel Club.

The Finnish Kennel Club's Dog Show Regulations (<https://www.kennelliitto.fi/lomakkeet/dog-show-regulations-2022>) emphasise the same:

- The wellbeing of dogs must always be a priority at dog shows.
- The exhibitor must take care of the wellbeing and good treatment of their dogs during the show and in preparation for the show.
- Dogs must not be mistreated and/or exposed to dangerous conditions. Failure to comply with this may result in removal from the show in question and a possible exclusion from shows. Dogs must not be treated with substances that have a negative effect on their wellbeing and health. This also applies to the treatment of the structure, shape or colour of the dog's coat, as well as the dyeing of the skin and nose.

Dogs may be removed from the ring if violations of Finnish legislation or the rules, instructions or regulations of the Finnish Kennel Club are detected. The common message of Finnish law and the Finnish Kennel Club's guidelines is clear: the wellbeing of dogs is a prerequisite for show activities. As an exhibitor, it is your responsibility to ensure that your dog has constant access to drinking water, sufficient time for rest, regular exercise and outdoor activities, safe equipment and to minimise the stress experienced by your dog. Taking care of wellbeing is based on both ethical and legal principles, and taking care of it also secures the future of dog show activities.

ANTI-DOPING

The Finnish Kennel Club's anti-doping activities are based on animal welfare legislation. The dog must not be given a medicine or similar substance or be subjected to a method designed to artificially influence its performance or behaviour in a trial, competition or show. Doping tests may be taken from dogs and a positive result may lead to consequences such as invalidation of the result or exclusion from participation. Rules and guidelines related to anti-doping and a list of withdrawal periods for medicines can be found on the Finnish Kennel Club's website (<https://www.kennelliitto.fi/en/activities/anti-doping>).

TAKING A DOG OUT

Dogs must be taken regularly to designated outdoor areas or on a longer walk outside the show venue so that they have the opportunity to relieve themselves. The use of enclosures for dogs to relieve themselves indoors is prohibited. Dog droppings must be cleaned up properly.

DOG COAT TREATMENT

Processing the structure, shape, or colour of the coat, as well as dyeing the skin and nose, is prohibited in the Finnish Kennel Club's show regulations (<https://www.kennelliitto.fi/lomakkeet/dog-show-regulations-2022>). If the judges or show employees observe the use of prohibited substances or the use of a prohibited substance or prohibited treatment of the dog's coat (e.g. the coat leaves colour on a paper towel or the dog's coat has been straightened) is detected, the dog will be excluded from the show or its result will be invalidated.

GOOD TREATMENT OF DOGS

The dog should always be treated with respect, kindness and calmness. Do not force the dog into a situation that it is afraid of.

The dog should move around the ring voluntarily. The goal is to keep the leash loose. The leash should only be tight momentarily as the dog pulls forward. In Finland, prong and electric collars are prohibited by law.

- Although a tightening collar is allowed, when using it, it must be ensured that the collar is mainly loose. The dog must not experience shortness of breath or have its oxygen intake restricted. A tight collar can cause physical injury to the dog's neck area.
- Recommended collars for use are: fixed, martingale, or other types of collars that are restricted in a way that they don't constrict the dog.

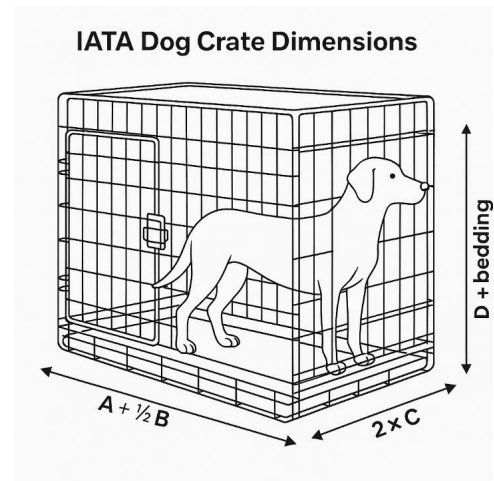
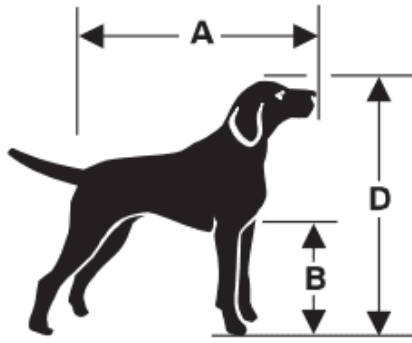
When lifting the dog onto a table, its body should always be supported. Under no circumstances should the dog be lifted by the collar, neck, coat or tail. Any handling that is not in accordance with the guidelines will be reported to the show employees and the dog may be removed from the show or its result may be invalidated.

A dog owner must ensure that their dog does not pose a danger to other dogs or people when participating in a show. According to the show regulations, a dog that is too timid or aggressive may not participate in the dog show. If the dog behaves aggressively towards the judge, other dogs or people (aggressively attacks, tries to bite or bites), a report of the dog's aggressive behaviour is made

(<https://www.kennelliitto.fi/en/activities/aggressive-dog-behaviour-reports>), in which case the dog is excluded from the show and its result is invalidated. If a report has been made of the dog's aggressive behaviour, the dog can be placed on a temporary five-day show ban immediately at the show venue. A dog that behaves aggressively in the ring shall be awarded the quality grade 'disqualified'.

CRATES, ENCLOSURES AND GROOMING TABLES

If you use a crate or enclosure for your dog, it should be spacious enough for your dog to stand, sit and lie naturally. The size must comply with the IATA's Live Animals Regulations, LAR: container requirements (<https://www.IATA.org/contentassets/b0016da92c86449f850fe9560827bbea/pet-container-requirements.pdf>).



If several dogs are kept in the same cage, there must be sufficient space for each dog. Depending on the number of pets, the width of the cage is increased as follows:

- 2 dogs = $3 \times C$
- 3 dogs = $4 \times C$

The dog must always have access to water in the cage. The dog should be taken out for a walk and given the opportunity relieve itself regularly. Grid-bottomed cages and enclosures are prohibited.

Dogs should never be left unattended on a grooming table. If your dog is attached to the pole on the grooming table, the leash should be long enough for the dog to sit.

Don't leave your dog alone for more than a moment. Display your mobile phone number in a visible place for emergencies. The show has a supervised compartment area where you can leave your dog that is open every day of the show. More detailed information is available on the show's website at <https://www.wds2025.fi/>

NO DOGS IN HOT CARS

Never leave your dog unattended in a vehicle without an active auxiliary AC system. If your car has air conditioning on, leave a clear note with your phone number on the window of your car. If the show committee finds that a dog is in a car and its health is at risk, it will be announced at the event. If the dog is not removed immediately, the committee will call the police.

WELLBEING ADVISERS

The Finnish Kennel Club has wellbeing advisers who move around the show venue to see how the exhibitors are taking the wellbeing of their dogs into account. The wellbeing advisers are trained by the Finnish Kennel Club. Their task is to promote the wellbeing of dogs primarily by advising and guiding exhibitors and, if necessary, by intervening in situations that endanger the dog's wellbeing. They can acknowledge exhibitors who prioritise the overall wellbeing of dogs at shows with the Kiva Koirakko (Good Dog-Handler Team) recognition.