



ELITE DOG TALENT SHOW TITLE REQUIREMENTS

Part 1: Come up with the story or a theme that will form the basis of your performance

Briefly tell or read the story you are trying to tell with your performance.

You can do it in many ways:

- 1) Read it out or tell it to the audience before the start of the performance as a part of your performance. The story is not included into the 4 minutes of the performance time, so the time starts after you complete telling the story to your audience;
- 2) You can record yourself reading or telling the story separately before you start your performance, rather than doing it in front of the audience;
- 3) You can e-mail the brief summary of the story together with the rest of the Elite Dog Talent Show checklist to DogTalentAssociation@gmail.com

What you can choose as a story?

This is really entirely up to you. It could be a little story or a theme. The Elite Dog Talent Show is designed to be performed in front of an audience. So it needs not to be just sequences of various tricks, but the tricks need to be logically connected or fit to your selected theme.

Examples of potential stories or themes to give you some inspiration:

Pirates;

In the school;

Helper;

Chaos in the hotel;

Naughty dog;

We are in the army;

Travelling;

Holidays;

Catch the thief!

Shopping

Any story usually has an opening or a “problem” followed by the main part where the story is developing and closing part or conclusion.

Instead of a story you could use general themes to link up your props and tricks, for example:

Circus;

Arabia;

Sport;

Party time;

Halloween

Yoga

etc.

Think of a theme that would help you to show off your dog and it's talents and be entertaining or humorous to watch. You are very welcome to use music and wear some costumes if you'd like, but this

Submit your videos for the Title on www.DogTalentAssociation.com

All successful submissions will receive DTA rosette and certificate

Part 2: Perform your story or the theme described in Part 1 in front of the live audience of at least 5 people, or virtually. The performance should last for around 3 minutes. Your dog needs to demonstrate at least 12 different tricks in the performance.

There are no restrictions on the types of tricks you can use. Any tricks from any level, any talent pathway are allowed. You can also use your own tricks.

You need to include at least one prop into your performance, but ideally aim to have several as they usually make the show more interesting and help to build the theme.

Your dog needs to demonstrate at least 12 different tricks during the performance. The tricks can be repeated as many times as needed throughout the performance – to help to tell the story.

The guide time for performance is around 3 minutes, but you are welcome to make it a bit shorter or longer.

Please record your performance as one video and submit via Submission form on the website. Separately please e-mail the completed Checklist to DogTalentAssociation@gmail.com or provide the same information as a free text.

Think of a theme that would help you to show off your dog and it's talents and be entertaining or humorous to watch. You are very welcome to use music and wear some costumes if you'd like, but this is optional.

If for one or another reason you can't perform in front of a real audience of at least 5 people, consider performing it virtually on your social media channel and get at least 20 likes.

Some useful suggestions:

People typically follow one of the 2 approaches:

- 1) First, make the list of the tricks your dog can reliably performs and enjoy doing. Then, consider what theme or story could join those together. Write the story outline or progression of your theme.
- 2) Come up with the story first, then have a think which of the tricks/props could help you to tell the story or would fit into your theme. Write a brief story outline or the theme progression.

Following that, consider what props you could use to tell the story or link up your theme.

Have a think and make a draft outline of the tricks that you are going to use in your performance, how you'll join them up. Bear in mind the space you are going to use for your performance. It could be anywhere- outside or inside.

Experiment with performing the sections of the draft performance now together with your dog. Make any changes and perhaps ask for some feedback. What works and what needs some changes? Refine your sequence of tricks and your performance and practice it with your dog.

Have fun!!!

Other key rules and requirements:

1. All behaviours or tricks need to be taught using a **positive approach** and the dog should clearly enjoy performing them.
2. Handler must ensure the **safety** of the dog and the people around at all times. All tricks need to be performed in a safe area where dogs are allowed. The handler needs to assist the dog and stop any tricks that may cause any harm to the dog, people or the environment. If your dog has any disabilities, then contact DogTalent Association in advance to discuss and agree an amended list of tricks/requirements to accommodate your dog.
3. The **handler must be ready to spot or support the dog at any point**. For safety reasons some of the behaviours may need to be performed on a harness and lead to allow more effective support. Any jumping has to be done safely and only at appropriate height to the dog and never higher than 2 dog's shoulder heights. Avoid asking your dog to jump higher than a dog's shoulder height on any hard surface. You may need to reduce those heights further for young, old dogs or for health reasons. Plan all tricks with your dog's health in mind.
4. Both the **handler and the dog need to be fully visible** in each video for the whole duration of the assessed behaviour. Each video must not be manipulated, edited and need to have the original sound track. The only editing allowed is trimming the start and the end of the video.
5. **No physical manipulation of the dog** into the position is allowed during the behaviour. Dog needs to perform all tricks willingly and independently. **No harsh dog handling or correction** is allowed at any time.
6. Hand shaping is allowed, but **no treats or toys can be used as lures** to perform the behaviour. Treats and other rewards can be given after the trick is completed. When performing the sequence of behaviours the reward can be given after completion of the sequence.
7. **Handler must not touch the dog** in order to entice the dog to perform the behaviour, unless the dog has some physical restriction or disability requiring the handler to touch the dog.
8. The performance needs to be recorded and submitted as one videoclip.
9. Both the dog and the handler should respect the environment, people around them and present a **positive and inspirational example** of a partnership.
10. **All behaviours and tricks are performed at your own risk** and the Dog Talent Association or anyone associated with it are not liable in any way whatsoever for any harm or injury, or potential injury. The Handler has full responsibility for assessment and management of any risks, suitability, safety and harm prevention.