



Start a Dog Show in Your Neighborhood  
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You don't need a big arena, expert judges and breed-perfect dogs to have a fun, neighborhood dog show. All you really need is a bunch of furry tail-waggers and an audience of dog lovers. That's because we're talking about a do-it-yourself dog show that's inclusive, inviting, and informal — the kind of event that welcomes all types of dogs.

## Ready ... Set ... Let's Get Started!

### Awards

The idea behind this type of all-dogs-are-welcome, bring-your-own-pooch dog show is that every dog is a winner. So, consider awarding prizes for a wide range of fun categories. For example:

- Smallest dog with the biggest personality
- Eyes that make your heart melt
- Most unusual bark
- Wettest nose
- Most likely to make strangers stop and pet ... etc.

And since this is a neighborhood event, you don't need solid-gold trophies. Simple award certificates will do nicely. Better yet, have your kids design them, for a quaint, homemade look.

## Venue

Choose a place that can accommodate all the dogs and their families (human and canine) and friends (again, human and canine). If you're planning a small group, someone's home may work. Larger groups can get together in dog-friendly venues in your town, like the local dog park. (Make sure you have the town's permission first.)

## Tickets & Fees

Of course, you don't have to charge an admission fee for your local dog show. But this might be a good way to raise some much-needed funds for your local animal shelter. Just charge a low fee at the “door,” and make sure people know your show will help the local shelter. Likewise, you can charge a low, affordable fee for doggy parents who want to enter their pets in the show. This can also go to the animal shelter.

## Getting the Word Out

There are lots of easy and affordable ways to create buzz about your pooch show. This includes:

- Posters
- Flyers
- Facebook posts
- Tweets
- Old-fashioned word of mouth.

A friendly, welcoming dog show — like the one described here — is a great way to make even more two-legged and four-legged friends in your community. Have fun!

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