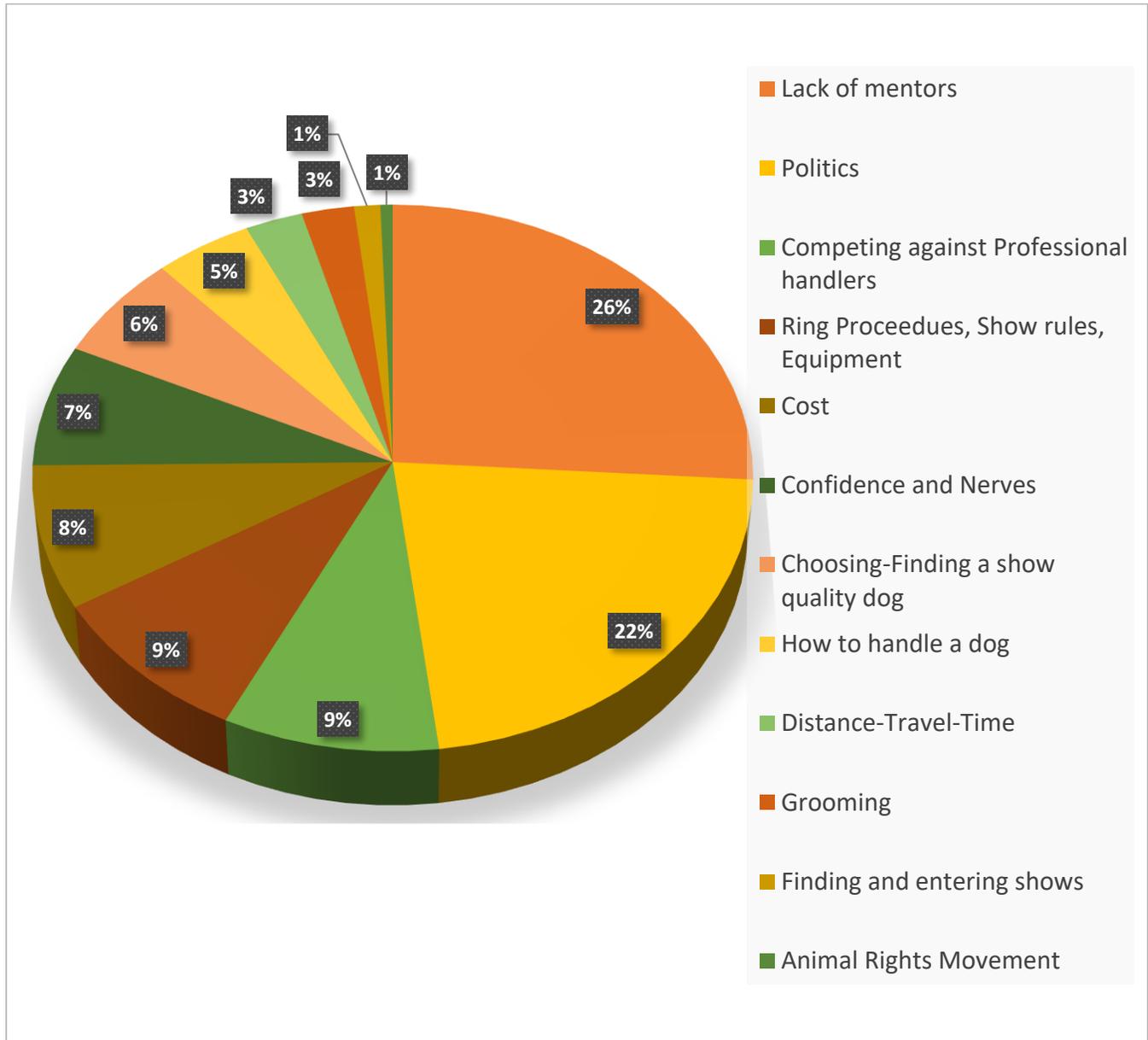




## Jan's Dog Show Boost Survey – Western Edition

**Question: What do you think are the most challenging barriers for current newbies (beginners)?**



This chart shows the top 12 categories that most survey takers chose. We allowed for multiple answers and comments. However, we did find some additional answers that did not fit into these 12 categories. The complete data is listed below.



## Jan's Dog Show Boost Survey – Western Edition

### What do you think are the most challenging barriers for current newbies?

Feeling that they or their dog are being criticized.

Feeling welcome to be at the shows. Getting support and encouragement from other exhibitors and everyone they interact with at a show.

Breed Mentors

Feeling intimidated.

Probably the same things, plus getting to know people.

Information to start

Where to get the knowledge to show their dog since there are few matches any more. Matches were a wonderful way to learn. Years ago there was a match somewhere close frequently. You could also learn to judge/evaluate at matches. Difficulty in finding classes and training from good trainers when you don't know anybody. I have observed that some long-time breeders and show people may not be too friendly to bystanders and newbies at dog shows and other events.

cost and understanding how shows work

How to show and groom your dog

Finding someone to help them/advise, understanding how to complete entries/class selection, cost and time

Having a dog that fits the breed standard and then losing to dogs that don't just because the "handler" knows the judge or has been around a long time. The judge puts their dog up for points even though it does not conform to the USA breed standard.

Finding training classes that will help them present their dog in a fashion that sets them up for success.

Lack of readily available fun matches for showing (conformation) and handling classes. Expense of showing dogs now.

same as above, plus cost is prohibitive for many.

Other exhibitors attitudes. I am constantly seeing people belittling and making fun of other exhibitors instead of helping.

Cost of entry fees

cost especially if you live in a remote area like me; being pushed away by mean people

I don't think many are interested in owning a purebred dog. Hence, the challenge is finding homes for some really great dogs that are getting a bad rap because they are purebreds.

Finding a show worthy dog

Not knowing what to do

"Rudeness from stewards and fellow handlers when inexperienced shows.

"

Lack of knowledge showing & the breed.

Money and competition

Figuring out who to talk to or where to start.

Many are treated rudely. We need to be more helpful. This includes some judges.

Not feeling welcome

Putting in the time

Finances

Finding local shows to attend, and grooming and handling advice for their specific breed

The vile nature of people when things don't go their way.

Handling classes

Access to classes, intimidation

Not knowing where to go and people not following up or wanting to help with your dog unless it is one of their own

Attitude of old timers



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Time, money, societal push to have all dogs spayed/neutered, rescue movement, lack of access to breeders who will educate new show dog puppy buyer

Costs

Finding patient mentors.

They want to start at the top

You don't always win even if your dog is awesome

Lack of mentors and moral support

Lack of people willing to help beginners

The cost of dog shows

The same..find someone to help you ..

Finding someone to be a mentor

Mentors

Finding a mentor. Apparently, breeders do not take new people under their wings anymore

Lack of mentors and positive support from others.

Finding a mentor that will stick with them longterm.

Learning and be confident enough to ask questions of those in their breed.

"I think their peers: many breeds are extremely competitive and the people are not very welcoming. I hear this anecdotally, but also experienced it when I went to help a brand new newbie friend try to navigate her first day at a large show. She is in a competitive breed, and I understand that people are there to win; however, this person was clearly very new and near tears with stress and worry, and she did not feel comfortable asking any of her nearby crate-mates for help. Not one stranger approached her to help, or reach out to her to ask about her puppy, and no one bothered to give her direction even when she asked. It was very unwelcoming and I think our COMMUNITY needs to do better at welcoming new exhibitors (I don't care how competitive your special is!). I have heard similar experiences from friends in many other breeds: the people are unwelcoming or cliquey, and that is extremely challenging for a newbie. Of my personal pool of friends, 3/3 of these people have resorted to hiring a professional instead of handling their own dog because they do not feel welcome or capable (to show or groom). How sad!

I was very lucky to step up to a ring that had welcoming people who saw a struggling newbie, and I had 3 people rush to help me right at my first show. ""This is how you hold a lead, this is where you get your number, this is where you hold your bait, your class is coming up"" etc. We can be competitive in the ring but helpful outside of it. It takes the ""fun"" out of dog shows when our community is not welcoming, and that is a massive barrier to try to tell someone new to ""hang in there!"" and spend money when they are having a miserable time feeling alone and/or judged by peers."

no one wants to be inviting to new people

Breeders don't want to give newbies their nice dogs because they don't have that trust yet.

Finding good breeders/mentors

Gaining all their knowledge from the internet instead of learning from breeders or mentors and being open to that experience that others have.

Same as above

See above

Others being rude

There is a lot of nuance that happens at a show- having someone like a dog show sherpa would be helpful to neophytes. Also, many newbies are not given the hard truth that their dog may not be up to conformation standards, so they don't win, the show is "political", and they take their ball and go home. Most newbies need to be told many times that all of us lost way more than we won in the beginning- that you have to be strategic. The "how-to-do(s)"



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The clocks.

being intimidated and not knowing that they need to take classes/lessons in order to get good/better and enjoy themselves

See above and exhibitors can be snobby too or just poor communicators

Lack of help/knowledge from experienced handlers.

Finding shows. Finding preservation breeders. Social media is really under used to reach the public.

Limited or no access to training for a show

Limited or no access to training for a show

Limited or no access to training for a show

finding classes & finding pro-handler to get the points

Same as above

Lack of sportsmanship

Needing encouragement

Again, classes and knowledge.....

Professional/extremely experienced handlers

The competition - the professional handlers.

Keeping the faith

Breeders need to trust newbies get good dogs in the hands of new people so they can experience success

Lack of mentors, lack of a friendly face. There are a lot of cliques in the different show world and a lot of those people aren't concerned with new exhibitors.

Being talk about, backstabbing,

Lack of friendliness

The politics and the lack of support from the pro handlers You need (AS A NEWBIE) to have a very hard skin to play the game and to be overlooked in the ring many times until you prove your staying power It takes a very long time to become recognized as a owner handler I have played this game for a very long time as an owner handler and have seen some of the big show in this area of the country fall in entries due to the Politics at one of the bigger shows this summer entry had fallen greatly and many owner handlers I talked with said it was their last year to attend this show due purely to the fact that every judge the club hired was a poor handler Judge I am not attending that show again JUST SAYING

Showing against Prof Handlers

Not knowing the standard

Exclusion. If you aren't known by someone you aren't drawn in.

Understanding points or how to show their dog.

Rudeness from some exhibitors.

"Feeling qualified, putting all

The pieces together "

politics

Handlers

The lack of other exhibitors to help and provide feedback and support.

Understanding the whole process and feeling like there are people to help you each step of the way.

Handling classes and getting out handled by pros.

Never being considered worthy as a breeder. Always an owner handler.

Not having a mentor, someone to help learn how to handle, wanting to win, not familiar with structure, breed standard, not enough matches.

cost and availability of a mentor

Competing against pro handlers

Feeling comfortable in the show environment



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I think everyone beginning should have a mentor to help walk them through entering, correct show leads, correct patterns and how to show in the table

Being welcomed by other exhibitors

Competing with professional handlers

Education

competing against professional handlers

expense

Probably the same

Grooming

Breeders nervous of letting their good stock go to a new person, thus the new person has nothing to show....

Finding good Club/classes and individuals to learn and have FUN showing dogs.

Cliquish attitude of exhibitors, help with setup day of the show

unfriendly and negative exhibitors

Acceptance from longtime breeders/handlers

Finding helpers to guide them if they don't belong to a local club.

Not knowing how to handle own dog, cost of professional handlers

learning to actually show. learning the rules

Noninclusion by competitors

Competition with professional handlers making it more frustrating to do well

Judges favoring pros and not knowing std

Lack of equality classes and workshops

same as above

Finding a dog, mentors and lessons

The entire environment where newbies are made to feel like there isn't a chance unless they hire a handler.

"Being overwhelmed by professional handlers.

"

Hostile attitudes. Lack of leaders.

navigating the shows

Unfriendly people

Not understanding how hard it is to win, then they think it's political or that people are mean to them

Going against pros. Some judges get irritated with newbies.

Awareness of resources, skill development, etc.

show etiquette, proper movement for their breed

I am to understand that some breeds are not as welcoming as others. I am very fortunate to have fallen into a FABULOUS group of rhodesian ridgeback lovers!

having all the grooming equipment & gaining confidence

Handling, understanding the role of a professional handler. Many newbies are being intimidated and frustrated so they pull away from showing.

"Getting to know other exhibitors and learning how to handle in conformation classes.

"

"Having mentors. Getting a good show prospects. Help from others ringside.

Sometimes it is their own fault."

Understanding how shows work.

Unsportsmanlike behaviors in and around the ring. I have seen Pro Handlers come out and just swear under their breath that the judge "didn't put up my dog, which is #1 in the breed" or snide comments to a winner such as "you need to get yourself to classes, she'd look better, or maybe put her with handler".

Same as above; plus, people not being very friendly.



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Lack of knowledge how to show my dogs strengths.  
costs, travel, breed clubs that are not welcoming to newbies  
Money  
finding someone to help them learn  
peer pressure  
lack of confidence and fear of failure or doing something stupid  
professional handlers as competition  
Cost,  
Getting a ring against professional handlers.  
Not knowing how to enter and what to wear and what to do  
The financial cost and developing a trusting relationship with mentors who are also your competitors.  
Cost, distance to travel  
Finding a good place of instruction. Becoming familiar with dog shows  
Buying puppy's from breeders online scams  
affordability knowing how to show the dog, what level to place them the point system, the stages of awards  
and merit programs  
Lack of mentors and handling classes  
Handling class availability, assistance/encouragement from other owner handlers  
Lack of support  
Lack of mentors. Lack of matches.  
Fear  
Competing against professional handlers  
Perceived inability to be competitive with professional handlers  
Breeder/exhibitors seem snobby  
Grooming, training, and handling  
Not enough support from fellow exhibitors  
How to succeed in a ring filled with professional handlers  
Lack of knowledge and resources  
Lack of comradery amongst competitors. Most handlers seem to be professionals and not helpful to newbies.  
Lack of support, distance to shows and expense involved  
Grooming  
Finding mentors and friendly faces at the dog shows  
Finding mentors and friendly faces at the dog shows  
As above. People are not supportive of newbies. I find when I reach out to help a newbie they decline help. They  
need honest constructive information.  
Lack of resources  
Lack of resources  
Procedures, points, presentation of dog and handler, and explaining why to people not in the sport  
Lack of mentoring  
Gear  
Not having indoor practice areas in winter months  
getting a good dog, finances, attitude  
Competing against the handlers  
We don't have any! Sadly, it appears few are interested in competitive canine events.  
Protocol and what you are and are not permitted to do.  
Getting a quality show dog and genuine kind feedback on performance of owner & dog  
Not sure



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help from other handlers and encouragement

Nice if there were practice shows ....a stepping stone

Lack of decent stock to begin with. Most Newbies start with pet quality and breed up

Same

balancing real life with this expensive hobby. Seems like most participants are empty nesters.

Discriminating between knowledgeable mentors and those who simply have an impressive Facebook presence.

There's almost too much available these days with social media and I see newbies choosing the wrong mentors and getting discouraged.

lack of dog show interest

What does the judge expect

Understanding judging, and the politics that go with it.

Biais of judges who pick based on the handler and not the breed standard.

Being included

Money, amount of shows in montana

finding a mentor and finding a good dog

What goes on at a show

mean exhibitors

Lack of training on handling the dog in the ring.

Handlers

Fear

It's hard for newbies to listen and learn from seasoned people. Everyone is an instant expert. I always listen first and speak second as I can always learn something from everyone.

Finding instruction classes.

No one want to help the new comer. Makes you not want to show. But there are some Awesome people out there willing to help.

Finding help from knowledgeable people who aren't self absorbed in their own greatness.

Sticking with it despite pro handler preference of judges, avoiding negative show participants

Not having a "place". Where to park, set up, etc.

Nerves and feeling intimidated by professional handlers

Where to start. Being able to put the time in, constancy .

Lack of acceptance from other exhibitors

Exhibitors are not welcoming or helpful to new people.

Majors are too hard to get numbers are too high

Competing with professionals

Lack of time to devote to the sport. The difficulty of finding serious show breeders who will actually part with a puppy for show to a novice versus pet quality with limited registration.

Stage fright

Unwelcoming people

Finding a good breeder, mentors, support system, education and training.

Lack of clear simple information and lack of real encouragement from others

Understanding the process, classes for dogs and bitches, where to take both conformation and obedience classes. Joining clubs and making friends.

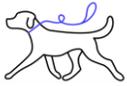
Same as above

Nasty exhibitors that put new people down

Cost. Travel. Time spent training.

The senior handlers

Money, knowing what to do



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Getting a good handler or learning how to handle

Lack of information

Access to mentors and/or handling classes.

Knowing and learning how to show and how to train your dog to stack.

Everything! There's so much to know it almost makes you want to give up

Knowledge

Understanding classes

Not knowing where to start

Not knowing where to start

Getting started

Not knowing the first thing about the show world.

professional handlers

Gatekeeping. Lots and lots of gatekeeping.

not noticed, to much Big handler judges, we may not have perfect grooming but great dogs, give credit to them to

Getting started

Not looking like a fool in the ring

Being able to show against professionals

understanding the obedience rules

The difficulty of beginning the sport. No one to mentor. Pettiness.

Learning the logistics of dog shows from entering to points. Finding shows with points in your breed.

Hostility from professional handlers and politics

Exhibitors being too busy, or just not wanting to be bothered to talk to them.

networking/meeting supportive people

time/expense - people are so busy now and everything costs more and more

Rude exhibitors

"In some breeds: getting a show quality puppy

For many newbies: mentoring on handling and the whole dog show experience"

Getting help when needed at a show and not having anyone to ask questions of.

Unfriendly & univiting people.

People's wariness of AR's and extreme competitiveness causing closed attitudes

Shows can be very overwhelming.

Not feeling welcome, no one to help guide them thru the classes, judges, grooming, etc

Same. It is very competitive among few top breeders and their support to just their "family" of co-owned dogs.

Like little islands. Newbies that don't belong to a family get very little sincere support or help. Plus politics is mine field for newbies to wade thru and not get discouraged

Getting a show quality animal. It can also be extremely intimidating. I've talked to a handful of friends who won't try because they are worried about how they will be treated by some of the seasoned show people.

Getting help/mentors dealing with snooty people.

travel and expenses

Acceptance

Lack of understanding. people who don't make them feel welcome

Fear and confidence

We didnt know anything, especially regarding grooming

Same as above.

finding training

The snobbiness of AKC breeders



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Experienced exhibitors ignoring them and even being rude to them instead of welcoming the new exhibitors to our events.  
Judges looking at handlers versus the dog  
Money and handlers  
Same as above.  
Finding handling classes.  
Not knowing where to start. Not knowing where to find resources/classes/mentors in their area  
Finding clubs and classes  
Just finding out where to start. If you are new, the entry process is tough to understand.  
Distance & cost  
The helpless feeling you get when Competing against top professionals, trying to fit in, and finding someone willing to coach you through the whole process  
Pro Handlers, not handling classes offered.  
Not knowing were to start.  
Not knowing what to do. Some clicks that don't help out new people.keep  
Finding an instructor who truly understands where the beginning is for newcomers and how to teach the basics.  
Lack of classes and mentors.  
What occurs in the ring  
Pro handlers  
Experienced exhibitors not being kind and welcoming. It's hard for them to find information.  
Resistance from experienced people showing but it is getting better as our club membership base broadens...and people become aware that people with "All American Dogs" can be very valuable recourses for help, great "worker bees".  
Too much information and no way to sort through it  
Resistance from experienced people showing but it is getting better as our club membership base broadens...and people become aware that people with "All American Dogs" can be very valuable recourses for help, great "worker bees".  
Figuring things out. Competitors are crabby/not very friendly.  
Knowing what to expect in ring  
other people in their breed or show being rude and mean for everyone that is nice and helpful there are lot that are not  
No classes or workshops  
Finding a mentor  
Politics/professional handlers  
Distance and cost, low participation from breed owners  
Crooked judges  
I think politics have gotten do bad that even newbies can see them happening from outside the ring.  
Lack of guidance. Not much help or support  
Rude exhibitors  
Same as above...favoritisms towards handlers  
lack of mentors  
Knowing who to seek help from  
Handling and grooming  
no idea  
Practice rings, unbiased mentors, club activites  
Not being welcomed and made to feel inadequate  
Undriendly people



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see above

Making friends with others.

negativity from other exhibitors

Politics

Same as above

It sometimes takes awhile to win; that is discouraging.

Limited entries in available shows and club members being not very encouraging.

Learning to show and groom

Much the same as me i assume

Finding a mentor, finding handling classes

Mentors

A lack of welcome by clubs and other exhibitors

finding a mentor

Lack of mentoring.

Finding classes and having people who have been showing help them.

Not knowing how to present your dog like a pro handler. Not knowing your own standard or what faults your dog has.

Other exhibitors

Finding someone to encourage you to keep going

Unfriendly competitors

Having to compete in the classes with professional handlers

Grooming

"I started in a breed and area of the country where fellow owners of my breed were very encouraging. We must welcome new exhibitors and help them, not be critical or discourage them. New people should also not think they can ""buy"" their way into a sport. Be willing to learn and ask questions. Get involved. And mostly, support our Junior exhibitors!

"

Handling, expenses for travel and entries, parking, hotel.

Learning to loose

connecting with experienced exhibitors

Same

Cost, traffic, lack of handling classes and many other distractions

Someone to help them navigate showing and the shows. I just learned one new ie thought she couldn't talk to her dog when in the ring.

Being competitive... even with good dogs, a newbie owner/handler has a tough time competing against pros.

And, the owner/handler is seeing more and more of non-PHA handlers who are added as an owner to a dog, and then show as owner/handlers.

Just getting word out about clubs

Unbiased information about bred standards, grooming, and judging

People are rude and unwelcoming to new comers to the sport.

The pro handler/owner handler divide

Willingness to learn

Getting involved with show

Again, the established clicks and the people who buddy up to someone for their own gain.

Pure bred dogs are not "encouraged" as much as adoption.

Finding a good quality dog to show and someone they can depend on for guidance/mentor.

Same



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It's an expensive hobby and groups like PETA and HSUS have made 'purebred' and 'breeder' four letter words. The growing public perception is that having a purebred dog is akin to killing another dog in the shelter and that all breeders are evil, money-grubbing animal-haters who don't care about their dogs.

Same things along with the real possibility that they will be treated badly by fellow exhibitors.

Expense of travel.

"It is hard for them to get started with the lack of fun matches or handling classes taught by a professional nearby. I would be afraid to get started if my only way to get started was to fork out a bunch of money and walk into a ring with me and the dog clueless.

I started showing in \*\*\*\*\* 30 years ago. There were day of entry fun matches and Sieger / European style shows, AKC shows almost every weekend, breeders even put on handling classes mainly for their puppy owners but other breeds did show up too, breed club members and breeders showed newbies how to groom the dog. There is a void of that these days. With a rustic rare breed, friends on the west coast and I end up sending each other videos of how we learned to do something at our breed national. If real time practice is only when entered in a show, it can discourage someone just starting out . Owner Handled fun matches can be an extra source of practice

I am aware that most of the clubs are aging out and not picking up new members, but I believe there is not a lot of benefit to new members who were hoping to learn something. Especially if there is a bit of a we were here before you attitude. Of course there is always the get the newbies to volunteer for everything before they realize what they have gotten into, which occurs in every organization dog or not. "

If you don't have a mentor or a breeder to help guide you, showing can be very intimidating and discouraging. Having someone to help you, give you tips on grooming and presenting your breed and overall encouraging you makes all the difference!

Just getting entered is sometimes daunting

The cost to finish a dog

Want immediate success

The same plus decreasing number of active breed clubs providing events and education

Same as above and getting the right advice

Dog show politics -

The handlers dominating the rings, judges who only look who is at the end of the lead.

People's attitudes.

Same as above.

People are generally wary of new people

for my children it was insensitive judges who barked orders and just acted like this was the worst job ever. I remember my son at his 3rd specialty show where the judge selected a dog that crawled on its belly the entire time in the ring. My son's dog had won best in show at his first show and he realized the judge was giving it to a friend. He quit showing that day as it was not a competition but who you knew. For my daughter is was a judge who was rude and embarrassed her in public.

Time and cost and finding the assistance; positive attitude of fellow, experienced exhibitors can help keep people wanting to show even on a bad day.

Learning how to groom, how to show

Getting their foot in the door

The dog show community has become very small and judgemental. There have been several incidents that don't encourage newbies to continue - in particular, other competitors being overly critical at ringside. I know of several long time exhibitors who are only doing rally or lure coursing because breed competition was too cut throat. Also not having an adequate explanation for placement can be a deterrent. I would say that finances are a big barrier as well.



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"The cost of traveling to shows, especially hotel costs, which are astronomical compared to when I began 25 years ago. That is a huge barrier to families with children--the next generation of dog-show people. I encourage and mentor juniors, who often travel with me because their parents literally can't afford to travel to a lot of shows.

"

Getting help/mentorship

Not sure

Support

dis-approval as an owner handler by other competitors

Finances - lower the cost to enter

In my breed, coat care and finding mentors close by

Cost

Lack of mentors near them

Being welcomed by their local breed club

access to mentor/classes

Their own nerves getting in their way. Perceived intimidation.

Finding classes

Inadequate mentoring

Finding a reputable and trustworthy breeder/mentor that is willing to grow a budding fancier.

Politics and judges putting up "names"

I think people circle the wagons and forget that new people are important for the continuation of the sport.

Mentoring is so important, it makes people feel like they are a part of something not to mention it helps them learn to present you breed in its best light.

Those who have been around for a long time not being welcoming to the new people who are interested in learning and the bad mouthing about competitors.

They think they know everything, think that internet call tell them more than experienced people.

See answer above

Same and actually training their dogs to perform in the ring

The rudeness of other exhibitors/handlers when a new person asks a question

Understanding the rules and knowing what to do

Lack of guidance

Newbies need to put their time in. They also need the sincere support of others in their ring and breed.

Lack of classes

Not enough support. High cost to compete. Not enough fun matches.

Selecting a dog breed that do well in what there trying to achieve. Finding resources that are local.

Club bickering. Competing against professional handlers with mediocre dogs but still being given top placement.

Supportive people in the breed

Not attending handling classes

People do not know exactly where to start. Without mentoring and networking these people will continue to leave the sport

Mean people!

Unfriendly exhibitors

"Depending on the breed, grooming can be a challenge for the novice.

"

Attitudes from judges and other handlers

Mean people!

Judges, ring stewards, professional handlers



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People welcoming them into the breed & being supportive  
Understanding the process. The class progression. Being rushed by judges you are being rushed by time limits.  
Learning show etiquette learning rules. Knowing your sport inside and out.  
Same - pro handlers  
Knowing who is willing to help them learn  
Knowing who to reach out to and how to reach out.  
Classes and guidance  
Professional handlers  
Expense, time constraints and learning about their chosen breed  
cattiness of exhibitors  
Finding a mentor  
Finding mentors  
The show ring is intimidating  
Being accepted by those in their breed  
Finding information. How to find a show. web pages that are easier to navigate. I think a big missed this is social media, using a creating events on facebook, participating on instagram to get pictures in the public eye.  
Knowing if their dog is "show worthy" and what training they can do at home and local classes in handling  
Jumping in. Can be intimidating without guidance.  
"Confidence in being assured the judge is looking at the dog. Understanding clearly what ALL the different dog sports are,  
And what the beginning steps are in each one."  
Judges, handlers, stewards, and exhibitors being unwilling to talk, share, teach and encourage.  
understanding and training good foundation skills  
No one to help them  
Going up against the professional handlers  
Not enough mentors  
Knowing how to get involved  
Judges that award Bob based on who holds the lead, not the dog  
Snobby exhibitors  
Same as above  
Exactly the same as I mentioned above.  
Cranky judges  
Far too many long time competitors are rude to newcomers (especially since newbies may not have top dog Specials but they love their dogs and want to show them off). There's not enough fun in dog shows.  
Time commitment, cost, lack of encouragement  
The wall of silence at shows that is not inclusive to newbies.  
Same  
Established breeders welcoming me  
That the dog is being judged  
Learning about the lack of health and honesty in the breed  
If not competitive, by nature, it's scary and can be a bit intimidating.  
Money  
Newbies seem intimidated by other exhibitors  
Mentors  
Lack of knowledgeable mentors.  
Too many pros not willing to help a newbie get started  
They don't want to read rules or put in the time to learn....they just want to jump in and go.



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Having support, mentor, quality dog

Same

anti dog show attitude among much of the public (non show people)

giving encouragement to not give up keep learning

Not feeling welcomed, being intimidated

people around them being discouraging

Breeders that are careful about new puppy owners, rightfully so. Public press negatives, animal rights activists, rescue groups, municipalities ordinances.

knowing proper/expected ring etiquette

as above

Information & handling classes

Information & handling classes

Support

Not having respect and knowing the rules of good sportsmanship.

Current exhibitors

Feeling they "fit in "

Inclusion

Time constraints, money, wanting just to win, being taken seriously

I know many breeds can be highly competitive and not supportive of newcomers. I think this is getting better but newbies can get a bit of a cold shoulder.

Most professional handlers make it hard to enjoy showing. Public opinion that rescue dogs are the only ones that matter and that dog shows are ridiculous beauty contests.

Finding a breeder that is willing to sell you a good quality puppy and then bring you into the show world.

cost & time

Expenses, need to compete against pros and well-known amateurs, lack of time, bad talk online

Probably about the same as above.

Finding handling classes near where I live that aren't an hour's drive or more.

Where to start, trouble getting people at shows to talk to them and answer questions. Shows do not advertise, they should market more.

The culture, not enough support from individuals to new people. We forget to help, get into our own heads too much and forget how it is to be new

Evaluating their dog against the standard, understanding how to show, grooming (depending on breed), not taking a loss personally, recognizing show "politics", etc.

Currently, too many think they can be Facebook authorities, without much real life experience or mentorship.

Having support to start off and get going at the dogshow

Dog shows tend to be cliques and not very friendly to new people.

Money and time

Lack of direction.

they don't see much reward for the cost, young people don't want to spend weeks and days grooming, they want experiences that they can just do that day. Too busy with their lives and technology and want something fun that they can just go to and participate. Not just watch something - something that gives them pride in owning a purebred and think they are part of something, other than having 'just a pet' ... and watch the "better" dogs be important. No doubt a difficult challenge for seasoned exhibitors to try to do.

no support from competitors

A good mentor is sometimes hard to come by. All of the time, expense, and knowledge required to be a successful breeder/owner/handler/groomer is a lot, so having a support system is key.

Finding a mentor, getting used to losing. Cost of travel to shows, cost of handlers. Finding good handling class.



## Jan's Dog Show Boost Survey – Western Edition

Breeders aren't willing to mentor and help new puppy buyers  
getting people to trust you

Where to begin, established friends,

Getting to know the long time people in all breeds at the shows

Professional handlers, expenses.

No patience for newbies (judges, other exhibitors)

"The out flat cheating present in the showing system encourages newbies to just quit as efforts are not rewarded when judges prefer to place professionals over the quality of dogs presented in the ring. It is a grave disservice to any breed to reward a lesser dog simply because of who is holding the leash. Why should someone continue to go to the effort, expense, training, time and emotional commitment to simply have judges time and again reward the handler and not the dog? There is a major problem with corruption starting with the judges which no one appears able or willing to confront. At the last \*\*\* show two judges in camp after hours were overheard agreeing that one judge would place the other judges breeding in the \*\*\* Show and in turn at the next show the other judge would place the \*\*\* Show's judge's breeding as Best of Breed. There is no personal responsibility or professional accountability for such cheating. The current system allows for the judges to be immune from discipline when they fail to judge the dogs and not the handler and other improper self-serving standards.

Another worse aspect of judging gone rogue is the blatant changing of breed standards in the ring. A sickening example of this is the German Shepherd breed. Judges have condoned, encouraged and allowed unsound dogs to be Best of Breed. I have seen dogs in the ring which should be dismissed as unsound remain in the ring, show and place. It is disgusting to allow hips which are so structurally unfit that effective movement is permanently altered to the negative. A second glaring example is the show Labrador Retrievers. The show body has become grossly heavy supported on short legs which cannot perform in the field. Judges have rewarded this alteration of breed standard in the ring allowing for this deformation to become a show standard in spite of the breed standard. Breed standards have and are being altered, without penalty, by judges unilaterally deciding what is fashionable over function. This is to the detriment of the breed overall as well as getting persons to show and continue to show. It is a disgusting practice and a judge who will not dismiss an unsound dog from the ring should be re-trained and if they refuse to change their judging behavior should be disqualified from judging permanently. If a judge does not have the moral character to avoid conflict of interests, know a breed standard, adhere to same and have the backbone to publicly dismiss an entire class of dogs out of the ring due to structural deformities then they should not be allowed to judge period. Unilaterally, judges are altering the breeds to a catastrophic point of no return. Agencies requiring working dogs do not even consider American bred German Shepard's for Military Working and Police dogs due to structural deformities started and perpetrated by judges in a show ring. Breeders who follow such ignorant and horrific practices should be 'rewarded' by being dismissed out of the ring in a public manner by judges with moral character backed by the sanctioning organization. It is no less than cruel and criminal what judging has done to some of the breeds. This begs the question why would any moral kind human being want to participate in dog showing at all? Simply put, an honorable person will not participate in a ""sport"" where cheating is the norm and ugly deformations of animals are rewarded. Clean that up and participation will skyrocket, continue status quo and the slow suffocation and erosion of participation in dog shows will remain. "

Infighting, rude & abusive judges and competitors

Finding a good conformation class. Also, the cost of showing, particularly the cost of hotels, which has skyrocketed.

See above

Judges not looking at dogs because they are shown by an owner.

getting over the nerves and taking unkind comments to heart

Acceptance



## Jan's Dog Show Boost Survey – Western Edition

grooming

good dog to exhibit

breeders not mentoring as they should

Complexity of finding when/where shows are being held , how to enter, read judging program, groom their breed.

Politics, professional handlers, and breeder/judge competitors.

being interested in showing their dog or having their dog shown

Politics, grooming areas, mentors.

not understanding the way dog shows work. not having a mentor

"Going and learning all they can from taking classes. I teach 3 levels from beginning through higher levels and that has helped many .

"

Dog shows are still intimidating! Everyone needs a safe place to go with their dogs so that they learn the ropes. Without matches, there are no more places to practice and ask advice. And our sport will die unless we take care of ALL newcomers.

One of the barriers is simply showing against experienced handlers. How is a newbie expected to compete against someone showing for years?

Need to have more shows and classes for training.

Figuring out the numerous entry options

Rude judges

Having someone to help them present their dogs at their best

Lack of knowledge of showing, poor grooming skills, and not having a chance to win when up against professional handlers.

Finding classes that encourage beginners.

Expense. Most breeds are shown with a pro at the other end of the leash.

Knowing who to trust that will steer them in a good direction and how to choose a good, reputable breeder.

Availability of local handling classes, no more matches, confusion among the many types of competition (NOHS, regular, performance, etc.)

I think some of the barriers that beginners face is knowledge and imitating what they see on tv. Which is not always how people show. Also many think that the sport is anti family and only something that adults with out kids do. Since we keep on banning the tools that help all parents, like a baby stroller. When it comes to junior showmanship I feel that many juniors have a disadvantage when it comes to nation rankings because of juniors that are assistance to professional handlers and/or are home schooled. I feel that junior showmanship should only be on weekends and/or when holidays or spring/summer breaks are.

Gatekeeping from National clubs- I got so much help and resources from mine, and I was blown away when I found out that other clubs had insane membership requirements that really keep the newbies out. Financial considerations- it's not just juniors we need to encourage, it's the 20-40 year olds just starting out. I'm 41, but that age range does not have the disposable income that previous generations did. And... assholes. People don't realize that everything they say at shows or on social media reflects on their entire breed community. Stop complaining, and start being part of the solution. Stop bashing other breeders/exhibitors in earshot of newbs. People need to knock it off and realize that if things don't change, if we don't find common ground, the ARAs have succeeded.

Time

Knowing where and how to start

not knowing what a given judge is looking for and how to present that

Putting all the pieces together



## Jan's Dog Show Boost Survey – Western Edition

Most new pet owners take basic puppy obedience classes. Today obedience schools never encourage pet homes to compete in obedience trials. And now conformation shows rarely have obedience. It used to be pet owners were introduced to conformation shows when they came to compete in obedience.

Finding a mentor in a specialty club. This may just be my breed since there are limited entries.

handling, being accepted, places to practice

Handlers

Understanding how to understand how their dog conforms to the standard

Attitude of some people

mentors

learning how shows are run

The same...it is not a friendly sport especially the rudest can be the exhibitors in your own breed.

It seems the resources barrier is greater now than when I started nearly 20 years ago. People live with less space to raise and exercise dogs, less time for training, condition, and grooming, and not enough money to meet the rising costs of attending shows (entry fees, travel/accommodations/reserved grooming space/etc.)

Getting to know people

Not being intimidated by the professional handlers and seasoned exhibitors. Some new exhibitors don't have a breeder or mentor available to help guide them and answer questions. Having that support is extremely important for a new exhibitor and can make the first few shows go a lot smoother.

Not winning

Monte and people. Show people can be a very closed group and it is difficult to enter.

Dog shows can be very cliquy. Newcomers need to feel more welcome.

Not enough handling classes, finding majors

Money, time and learning the ropes. It's like learning a new language. Some people are helpful but there is just a ton to know - from classes and terminology to filling out entries to where to go and what to do at the shows.

The people that have been doing it forever are helpful but there's only so much hand holding you can ask for.

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Learning skills

I'm a newbie, so please see above. :-)

Education

Lack of feedback & transparency by judges on why a dog lost or won.

Class times too late and shows during hunting seasons

Showing a dog looks easy, newbies often do not realize the subtleties and the training that needs to go into presenting your dog to the judge and winning

Lack of sanction matches or events to practice. Long time ago there was one most weekends and not attached to a show.

Showing against the pros.

Probably the same.

Lack of education - rule book has limited information about

access to training and mentors

The political side of things...judges favoring professional handlers

Most experienced exhibitors don't go out of their way to include newbies especially if they're not in the same breed

Getting a dog they can be competitive with and finding someone that can teach them/ finding friendly people to shows.

The politics



## Jan's Dog Show Boost Survey – Western Edition

Acceptance by more experienced exhibitors

Grooming and handling against professionals and ring procedure.

Cost

Cost

Getting a well bred dog that can be shown

Nasty exhibitors who bad mouth and don't help. No one wins all the time. It costs nothing to be polite or to encourage sportsmanship

Not having someone to introduce them to the sport.

Poor sportsmanship

Money. Not truly understanding what a dog show and by extension reputable breeding is about.

Knowing where to get help starting.

Cost, distance.

Getting a good quality dog and probably attitudes of some of the people in the industry. Can be very hard to feel welcomed and included especially as a younger person.

Knowing who to ask for help. Finding someone nearby who is familiar with a specific dog breed who is willing to mentor.

Money, time

Intimidation as well, or lack of knowledge.

Just getting to know people in the community when you're not sure where to start.

Not being welcomed

Welcoming community

Information and money. A lot of younger people just don't have the cash, or the time to travel out to good shows, let alone also hire a trainer or handler. Why get into an expensive hobby if nobody will even help you out?

Crowding. Figuring out the point system.

Finding a mentor and/or someone to sell them a show puppy

Not being nervous around professional handlers.

"Current environment. Too many busy bodies, so anti dog.

Too pro rescue and pro substandard breeders.

Losing our historic breeds."

Not know where to start

The above, as well as the obvious handler advantage

Handlers and judges knowing each other

It's very intimidating being a newbie and trying to navigate a show full of professional handlers and experienced owners.

Poor attitude/ acceptance from experienced adult handlers with no time for juniors.

Experienced handlers are not very welcoming

Clubs not welcoming new members

Getting a dog or going to shows as a parent - it's very not kid friendly

Feeling overwhelmed and unsure where to begin

Staying motivated when you are beaten by professional handlers when their dog isn't as good as yours. They are put up because of their name or of the judge doesn't know the breed well enough. They look up the lead then and that is discouraging to newbies. Make sure all conformation judges truly know the breeds in which they are presented!!!

Closed attitude towards newbies.. nobody willing to help, only use newbies as points for their own dogs

Same



## Jan's Dog Show Boost Survey – Western Edition

I feel as if there is a stigma that we are being looked down on and not encouraged/mentored. I am learning this is not true as I begin to form relationships with my local conformation teams. There is a husband and wife in particular that goes above and beyond to include me and not make me nervous to ask questions and receive answers.

Getting a dog they can show without prior show experience. No one will sell. I did have a little of prior experience but still faced an issue of being denied in getting a show dog (not breeding) from local breeders. People are very unwelcoming to new comers. It's also very difficult learning how to show groom and all the moving pieces to dog shows.

Support that is consistent with mentor who has strong knowledge

Learning all the rules

Competitive/catty exhibitors, lack of community, lack of breed mentors.

No mentors no help

Professional handlers

The expense and finding good mentors

Having a good dog with a great handler and winning all the time, then keeping that momentum going, and or finding a replacement for the top winner, also having deep, very deep pockets.

Feeling intimidated by other exhibitors

Negative people, people aren't welcoming to new people

Not understanding what to do and not having someone to walk them through ring procedure; prep; sources of training; understanding how the point system works and breed ring process from class dog to best of breed...

Lack of willingness of experienced exhibitors to help them.

Understanding how a show works

Getting involved into showing

Interest

Same as above

Intimidation and brief that experienced exhibitors are "stuck up".

Having to show against professionals. No points awarded to amateurs

Feeling like you don't belong

Not enough breeders want to sell to a new exhibitors.

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Finding knowledgeable people that will give an honest evaluation of a puppy's quality.

Lack of support from Professional Handlers, and non-professional exhibitors. High entry fees.

FUN - if it isn't fun, they are not going to continue to learn or show.

Lack of understanding what confirmation shows are about. Lack of mentoring from the ground up. Getting over yourself. Intimidation by professional handler's

Same people winning, some people are not nice to new people

Unsure

Judgment of experienced people, some are not welcoming

Same

Confidence in themselves

Financial cost and distance to shows



## Jan's Dog Show Boost Survey – Western Edition

Just learning all of the rules and how to handle your dog properly.

Same answer as above

"Finding a nice dog is important and many people in the fancy are very hard to find. ""Who you know"" is important but it's also nepotism to some extent, and people who would be great dog owners are overwhelmed by it.

I help a lot of people figure out how to get to a dog show and I've met a lot of people from the internet to introduce them to the breed or breeders/fanciers at show. It is NOT easy for people who are not already in the fancy."

Conflicting info from exhibitors and mentors listen to one or two mentors, study breed standard, observe other breeds as well as your own.

Control and grooming of their dog

They need friendly mentors, workshops.

Ring knowledge and experience

Arrogant exhibitors

Unfriendly people, judges, not knowing who to ask or where to start

Understanding and finding great Mentors

Not having someone show you the ropes and educate you about grooming, etc. plus learning the dog show sites like info dog and Bayray, etc.

People being welcoming and friendly

Cost. Time. Lack of mentorship. Other participants not friendly. Unrealistic expectations of self, dog, other exhibitors.

Getting honest help

Finding a mentor

Feeling welcomed into competition

Judges putting up bad representation of the breed making spectators think that that one is good, or there's is good.

Finding a mentor, finding a breeder, and getting past the "iron curtain" that exists within some breeds among current exhibitors.

Lack of support for new people and the cruel comments that some of the seasoned people make. Shows need to be more friendly

Lack of space to properly house a breeding program and unwillingness of younger generation to invest in suitable housing for a breeding program...hence, no more serious breeders.

Lack of education as to why purebred dogs are important, lack of ability to practice conformation and understand how to properly show their dog (lack of classes), judges who do not understand the standard, judges who look at the wrong end of the leash,

The Politics and poor sportsmanship in a lot of breeds/venues.

Money, time from kids activities

The people AND the quality of the dog that they are showing.

Going up against professional handlers, especially in some breeds

How judges treat owners vs handlers

Lack of knowledge and people not always being as friendly/helpful as they could be.

Breeds that are ruled by handlers.

politics

Exhibitors not being friendly

No idea



## Jan's Dog Show Boost Survey – Western Edition

See above - And the fact that few of them put in the time to spend the DAY at it. They fail to take the time to watch breeds other than their own - as many as possible - and then watch ALL the way thru to BIS. the biggest obstacle is that someone told them it was easy!

Getting help from people

Competition

Professional handlers. When you can't possibly win in the classes you are not going to continue to beat your head against that wall.

Trying to find a mentor

No time. Usually a "first" dog \*\*\* not be show quality even though it's AKC reqe expense and actually learning what a good dog looks like

getting in too fast, too many dogs before they know what they're doing

learning how to show

A mentor to teach handling and teach the ins and outs of the dog show world.

Same

Lack of support by mentors and experienced breeders

\$\$\$. Expenses of entries, hotels, dog sitters, gas. Also in my breed, all judges who do not know the breed and extreme unsportsmanlike statements about my breed by judges at judges dinners at dog shows. I consider this to be extremely unsportsmanlike behavior.

It's an individual thing

Same I think. I do my best to help newbies feel welcome

Not knowing what resource are available.

Not having classes to teach you ring procedure and proper etiquette

interest in showing and costs incurred

Feeling like outsiders. Discouragement.

Judges

Understanding the classes, ribbons, grooming, what judges want, what to do once you have entered a show, how to reserve and set up grooming, What to do when you get to the show site.

Time and financial requirements.

Meeting good breeders and not knowing enough about there breed

The cost to enter, fuel costs, parking fees, hotel costs, competing against handlers, not knowing how to enter (online or forms), not knowing deadlines to enter, I could go on!!!

Unfriendly exhibitors, no one wants to help the competition

Getting accepted

Breaking in and accepting advice

Learning to trim

Lack of knowledgemor

In obedience and rally, not having access to working with a "good" trainer

Competing against pro handlers

more politics

Cost, access, commitment

Few people offer to mento newbies

Handlers, getting premiums. Knowledge of how to finish an entry form.

Getting judges to judge the dogs and not the most advertised or best known handler

cost

Cost and competing against handlers

Professional Handlers

Intimidation/ fear of the unfamiliar



## Jan's Dog Show Boost Survey – Western Edition

The way the world has changed. People seem to want instant gratification. Life is way too busy. If there are 2 parents in the home, both are not just working but have careers. Sometimes it is the negative aspects of the dog show world that turns people off. Sometimes the familiarity of Judges/Owners/Handlers turn people off. Veterinarians almost always encourage / even demand altering by 6 months [that immediately ends the show career for that dog].

Lack of education and supports by other members of the fancy. Also so many of them want to get to the top right away without understanding how it works. They are committed to the win versus being committed to the fancy

Nerves

Competing against experienced handlers

Time, money and priorities.

Lack of mentors

Get them to a dog show.

cost - they may not be ready to show

SAA

quick fix, no time to train

"Lack of mentors

"

Understanding how dog shows work and making it clear to them during introductory sessions what they need to do to become actively involved. Many Kennel clubs now offer dog show tours during their events for attendees who may never have even thought about entering a dog show. You never now when that bug is going to bite.

Lack of resources

1) Learning how to groom & show the dog to it's best advantage; 2) Confidence in myself to show the dog.

Being willing to listen, learn and work hard.

Understanding the what and why we do what we do.

Too many other activities going on to devote solely to dogs

Meeting fellow breed enthusiasts and learning the Dog Show world. Some people are soo busy they dont take time to say hello and assist newbies.

Fairness

Cliks

Same as above

Handlers, judges' bias

See above. Plus entry fees.

Time and lifestyle

learning to present their dogs

Lack of a welcoming face

They feel like everyone knows everyone else and they are left out.

Not sure yet...just getting started.

No Applicable

No experience

Cost, political - judges preferring professional handlers and do not seem to always reward according to breed standards.

Handling technicalities

no one has the time to share

To many people shut them down. We need to encourage and help educate.

Some people can be snarky to newbys. Judges \*consistently\* giving professional handlers awards without even an appearance of considering owner-handlers.



## Jan's Dog Show Boost Survey – Western Edition

No one wants to be helpful

Lack of knowledge.

See above answer. Also, new people don't listen and take advice they ask for. They turn into 'instant experts' and think they know more than experienced folks.

same as mine were - newbies need a local mentor

Unfriendly people and no matches

Alot to learn

Competition does not want to help new people

Finding someone who will encourage them unless their breeder is local to them

have not participated

Other exhibitors

Money

Trying to enter a Roy Jones Dog Show on line!

Not receiving the encouragement of other exhibitors. Feeling included.

being left out of useful information

Cost of showing/ lack of interest in purebreds / lack of active clubs

Finding a qualified mentor

Lack of Knowledge

Same answer. Most exhibitors feel they must hire a handler in order to win/finish a dog. Not all can afford to do so in addition to paying for entries, grooming space, parking, etc.

Politics

Time from experienced breeders and handlers. They are a busy group of people but we should all find a little extra time to help those that ask questions and truly want to know our knowledge.

going against pro handlers

Shows too far away due to clusters

Finding a good mentor

Right now, as compared to when I started, I think social media is a downfall, as too many instant experts present themselves to those even newer as mentors, when they are in need of mentoring themselves. Anyone can have a social media presence, but it does not mean they are experienced in their breed.

UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS IS A LEARNING EXPERIENCE AND BEING OPEN TO TAKING TIME TO LEARN HOW TO DO THINGS THE RIGHT WAY AND NOT EXPECTING TO WIN OR FIND SUCCESS IMMEDIATELY.

Grooming

Getting classes for practice

Politics

Same only worse because now it is even more about winning, not exhibiting breeding stock, and the pro handlers are the worst because they are in it for the money and not exhibiting breeding stock.

Finding credible mentors. Busier lifestyles that don't allow many newbies to stay at a show all day to watch, learn and talk to experienced breeder-exhibitors.

professional handlers

Don't know

Getting past the rudeness that some exhibitors have

Finding someone to help/mentor them without jealousy.

Finding a mentor to assist and answer questions, I was very lucky.

Handlers

Exhibitors now expect instant gratification without paying their "dues".

Money, veterans too busy or unwilling to talk to newbies. Especially if the newbie's dog is not their pedigree.

Getting past the image of the sport being elitist. It's not. Except in higher levels of competition.



## Jan's Dog Show Boost Survey – Western Edition

Not enough good mentors/feeling discouraged when beaten by handlers

Lack of mentors, getting started w/ a good dog. Handling classes

Not having support from others

Getting to know people in the breed.

Cost

Not being taken seriously.

Lack of training classes

The fact that the best dog often doesn't win and most rules aren't followed.

Cost

Feeling overwhelmed

There is very few ways to win in the ring against professional handlers.

So many pro handlers in the rings they are made to feel owner handlers cannot compete against them and win; sour judges who are not kind friendly and helpful

Same as above.

Cost of showing and competition for winning. Knowing the difference between show quality and pet quality in their dogs. Training the dog for showing.. knowledge about the breed standard and how it is judged.

Feel intimidated by other show people

Same as above

fear of politics

Lack of peer support

Asking for help and then deciding your mentor is wrong

Same as above

Bad judging

Lack of people willing to help

Being uncomfortable talking to people and/or thinking they know it all already

Lack of knowledge about the existence of shows and lack of handling classes.

Grooming, finding owner handlers to help with support..

Finding people willing to help them.

Politics, not having a mentor, judges putting up names and handlers instead of the best dog, realizing that they may not have the best dog because very seldom will someone sell them their best dog. .. therefore they have to put their time in and breed to get something better.

Not everyone is friendly & there are a lot of things to know, things that aren't taught in class, like going in for reserve.

"small children and no money?"

"

Finding a mentor

Mentors, breeders willing to sell show potential dogs, costs

participants not welcoming new exhibitors

Finding a good mentor. Jealousy to or from other exhibitors. Showing to win rather than actually learning about dogs.

exppense

Support of other competitors

Lack of kindness from others.

I find exhibitors very helpful to newbies. If the question is for shows in general, possibly relaxing the number of shows and clubs that can cluster within a certain mileage. In general, need to make it easier for folks to get points and not have it be cumbersome or excessively expensive. Some of the laws that are being passed make it impossible for responsible folks to breed dogs and therefore the availability of animals for showing is not there.



## Jan's Dog Show Boost Survey – Western Edition

Breeder vs Handler politics

Knowing what to do. "A learning ring" with a judge who critiques in real time. Just like the real thing but you have the time and get to ask questions and get specific feedback. Maybe ran on the hour for anyone to show up and give it a try.

Who they may go to for help

Professional handlers

the current mindset about "purebred dogs" and the stigma of purebred dog shows

Few mentors

Understanding that you just need to do your best and keep going...don't let others intimidate you  
intimidation, costs

Rude people

Same as my own problems were as a newbie. in addition, judging is very much geared toward professional handlers and not owner handler friendly.

Mentoring, costs

Finding handling classes; learning the basics of the show like how to find and enter shows; social interaction with fellow exhibitors at the event. Understanding WHY shows are still important to the preservation of the breed.

Finding a quality dog

Being accepted by the other people within their breed

Lack of handling classes

Probably the same things

Not knowing what to do and equipment to use.

Cost

Same as above

Rings are filled with polished professional handlers. You feel very insecure as a newbie. Some judges are kind, but others are not. My daughter has shown for years. I am brand new this year. In my second time ever showing I had both the judge approach me with her "kind" suggestion that I hire a handler and later the ring steward also approached me to say I should consider hiring someone. This was not kind nor did it make me ever want to step foot in the ring again. I didn't ask for this advice. If newbies are treated this way what would make them return? I think suggesting a handling class may have been a better approach or direct pointers of what could have been done better on my part would have been well received. I am the outside person giving this sport a try for the first time. I was not born into a breeding family or handling family. I am who your target is and without thick skin I would not still be trying to show my dog. I think it needs to start with the Judges. They receive ads of dogs, I just learned a lot of people "friend" the Judge on social media, where their dogs are shared. In my rare breed, Judges are in the ring judging one day and the next day professionally handling the same breed in the same ring. This does not seem right to me. I think change in attitude has to start at the top and work down. I don't know how you get rid of money talking by the extensive advertising and usage of professional handlers, but Judges could be reminded of what it was like to step into the ring for the first time and asked if they are helping a new person or pushing them away.

Obtaining a dog that they can show and finding a mentor is the hardest along with the things I struggled with.

Lack of competition

No one to help, and going against handlers

If the newbie has a local breeder to help, it's good, but if their breeder isn't close, it can be hard for them to get a local mentor

finding good support to help with the confidence to start showing

politics

need lots of encouragement to keep trying



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For some it is a lack of welcome and help within their breed or the community as a whole, for others it is an expectation of immediate success and disappointment when it doesn't happen.

Procedure, lingo

Lack of mentors/willingness to learn

Good encouragement from mentors.

Finding shows and knowing what to do

Other show members can be rude

Same as above

Cost, knowledge of their perspective breed

Access to a good dog.

same as above, grooming, learning different judge preferences

The incessant desire of some exhibitors to criticize and say nasty things about other dogs and the dominance of pro handlers in the ring. Most judges are former pro handlers and so are many of the paid staff of the AKC!

People are not friendly or willing to help someone new

Same as I currently have started in a new breed

Ring rules, procedures and equipment.

"Understanding the procedure, courtesies, and handlers

"

No one willing to help

Expenses

The experience people is not friendly

Competing against pro handlers for points.

Rude exhibitors not willing to welcome, and lack of people willing to help and be nice

Crate space

Getting past the nastiness

Acceptance

Cost and people who are not helpful

Not being encouraged by other members of their selected breed.

I see a lot of breeders who do not want to place their show prospects with a newbie; they are unwilling to take on a mentorship role. I don't feel I am experienced enough to take on the role myself but I have already had several peers -- now that I've proven my abilities -- referring others to me. I guess it is because I have a clear and consistent vision manifested in my breeding program and I'm not rushing to be a top producer but focusing on quality and enhancing the genetic variability of my rare breeds.

Lack of mentors to show them guide them and help them.

Understanding ring procedures

The Gov't

Allowing themselves to be intimidated by professional handlers.

lack of knowledge

Judges picking the wrong end of the leash

financial, lack of education regarding breed.

being new! Breaking into the sport

Getting help from experienced owners, handlers.

Time and money - people's lives seem so busy

Entry fees plus parking along with grooming space are getting higher

Not enough "free" classes. It's expensive and newbies need help

Cliquey atmosphere. Increased costs. Uncertainty about where to acquire a quality show prospect from.

Lack of inclusion from long time exhibitors.



## Jan's Dog Show Boost Survey – Western Edition

Finding a mentor

Gate keeping within the breeds and within the sport. When nobody is good enough for a puppy or has enough "experience" be let into the inner circle makes it pretty hard to keep the sport going.

Newbies seem to want instant success. No matches for practice.

Finding mentors

Finding mentors, a support circle

The ability to trust mentors more than social media

Not feeling welcome

High entry fees, most shows are during school and AKC doesn't provide any support for absences from school.

"Finding out HOW to show dogs, where to go for handling classes in my area and getting people to share knowledge as well as the cost to show... When I started we did not have to pay large fees for overnight parking and grooming and entry fees were half of what they are today.

"

Going up against professional handlers

Political atmosphere of ring judges picking friends not best dog

Getting help and Having good instructors that are good with teaching

Finding a nice puppy from a reputable breeder that will mentor them and help them get started.

Stacking dogs. When to bait.

Very political, needs to be more welcoming to new handlers

No help and No conformation classes advertised; its word of mouth

No classes, attitudes from experienced exhibitors,

Trying to understand point system

Politics, financial and not enough mentoring.

Acquiring good dogs, building friendships with fellow exhibitors, and receiving constructive criticism.

Not enough help or support

Pros winning everything with dogs that do not conform to the breed standard

being accepted

I think getting your foot in the door and trying it out.... I wish there was like a little March event during the show day that you could use as a practice or learning experience.... actual match shows are a lot harder to find than regular shows so there isn't much practice unless you can afford the time or money to do handling classes with a trainer .

Feeling welcome

Rude Handlers

Finding good breeders and making connections

Getting and knowing what is show quality in their breed

lack of patience

Lack of mentors/education

Ring politics in and out of ring

"Breeders don't trust newbies with their good dogs so most newbies start out with crap dogs, don't win, get frustrated & quit.

Lack of resources to know where to find show information, supplies to get, proper grooming, etc. not enough true mentors "

Xx



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**Woof!!**