

Crufts

March 2008

Crufts was named after its founder, Charles Cruft. Charles Cruft worked for a dog biscuit manufacturer, travelling to dog shows both in the United Kingdom and internationally, which allowed him to establish contacts and understand the need for higher standards for dog shows. In 1886, Cruft's first dog show, billed as the "First Great Terrier Show", had 57 classes and 600 entries. The first show named "Crufts"—"Cruft's Greatest Dog Show"—was held at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, in 1891. It was the first at which all breeds were invited to compete, with around 2,000 dogs and almost 2,500 entries.

With the close of the 19th century, entries had risen to over 3,000, including royal patronage from various European countries and Russia. The show continued annually and gained popularity each year until Charles' death in 1938. His widow ran the show for four years until she felt unable to do so due to its high demands of time and effort. To ensure the future and reputation of the show (and, of course, her husband's work), she sold it to The Kennel Club.

In 1936, "The Jubilee Show" had 10,650 entries with the number of breeds totalling 80. The 1948 show was the first to be held under the new owner and was held at Olympia, where it continued to gain popularity with each passing year. The first Obedience Championships were held in 1955. In 1959, despite an increase in entrance fees, the show set a new world record with 13,211 entrants.

By 1979, the show had to be moved to Earls Court exhibition centre as the increasing amount of entries and spectators had outgrown the capacity of its previous venue. Soon, the show had to be changed again—the duration had to be increased to three days in 1982, then again in 1987 to four days as the popularity continued to increase. Since 1991, the show has been held in the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, the first time the show had moved out of London since its inception.

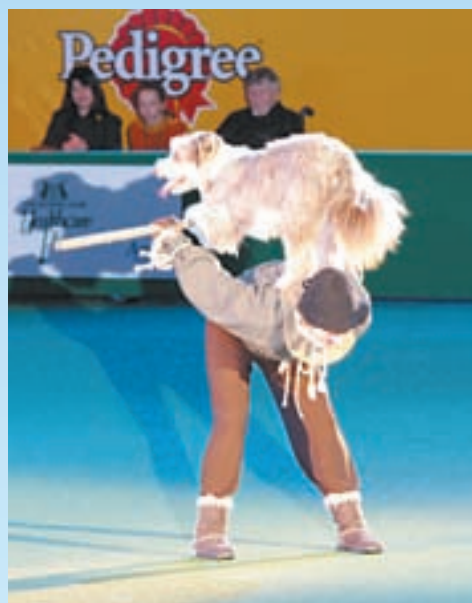
It was also at the Centenary celebrations in 1991 that Crufts was officially recognised by the Guinness Book of Records as the world's largest dog show with 22,973 dogs being exhibited in conformation classes that year. Including agility and other events, it is estimated that an average 30,000 dogs take part in Crufts each year, with an estimated 150,000 human visitors attending the show. Another competition is the dog agility competition, where the dogs undergo a time trial, where they must manoeuvre, with the guidance of their owners, through, over, and around different obstacles. Any mistake made by the dog is penalized by adding time to their result. Dogs must qualify during the preceding year to compete in individual or team events.

Next is the obedience competition. Dogs qualify by being successful at shows during the preceding year to compete in the Dog and Bitch UK Obedience Championships, UK Inter-Regional Team Competition and the crowd's favourite the Obedience World Cup. The prizes are awarded according to the judges after they have undergone various demanding activities, such as offlead heelwork at different paces, distance control, retrieve, sendaway, stays and scent discrimination.

The Flyball competition is a relay-style race. Teams of four dogs compete against each other in a knock-out competition. Each dog jumps a series of four hurdles, and then steps on a box, which is rigged to release a ball.



Paula Heikkinen-Lehkonen judging her country's national dog, the Finnish Spitz



Junior Handler Final, amazingly all eight exhibits were Gundogs

The dog must then return the ball to the start of the course to tag one of its team, who then repeats this process until all the dogs have finished.

Crufts also holds a musical canine freestyle competition, called heelwork to music in the UK.

2008 show had almost 23,000 dogs entered, including 1,165 dogs from overseas and 160,000 dog loving visitors.

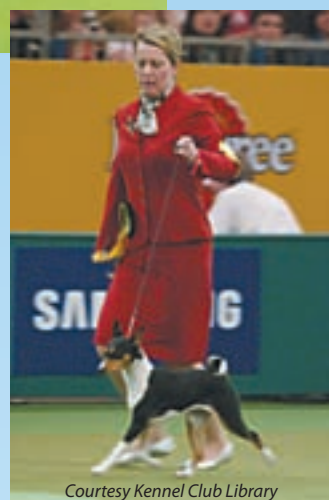
Crufts 2009 dates are 5th – 8th March 2009 at the NEC, Birmingham.

Information obtained from:-
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crufts>
<http://www.crufts.org.uk/>



Australian born judge Glenn Dymock's

Basenji BOB winner Ch Klassics Million Dollar Baby at Tokaji went on to win Group fourth



Courtesy Kennel Club Library



Jessica Walker from Australia



Alice Trevelyan from New Zealand



BOB German Shepherd Dog VDH Centenary Show and the Sieger Show winner Zamp vom Thermodos

