

# Beginner's Guide



## Heelwork to Music

### What is Heelwork to Music?

One of the most exciting innovations in the world of dog training has been the recent introduction of Heelwork to Music (HTM). The title is quite descriptive because competitors design a routine to suit a piece of music of their choice of up to four minutes duration.

This new dog training sport has gained many supporters in the short time that it has been available and it is becoming more and more popular for competitors and spectators alike. Probably its secret is that not only is it totally different from other dog training disciplines, but additionally it has the emotion and power of music combined with the beauty of a dog showing how versatile it can be. All this adds up to spectator appeal and at its best an HTM routine can be quite breathtaking.

### A Suitable Dog

Most breeds are capable of doing HTM, using variations of music to suit the size and breed of dog as well as handlers capabilities. A reasonable knowledge of basic Obedience and control of the dog is essential and play is also an important

### Equipment Required

- Dress for competition (dogs may only wear dressed collar)
- Music



part as well as keenness to learn tricks.

Dogs entered in HTM Competitions must be registered at the Kennel Club in accordance with Kennel Club Regulations for Classification and Registration B.

### Basic Training

To start training HTM, food is often used as a reward to teach various moves. Once the dog has been taught various moves then music is chosen along with choreographed movements in time with the music.

There are two styles of HTM. The first is made up of 60% Heelwork and 40% Freestyle. Heelwork is the ability of the dog to keep its shoulder reasonably close to the left or right side of the handler. Freestyle should be included in the routine and linked by Heelwork.

The second style is a predominantly Freestyle routine that contains movements in any position. Heelwork as described above is acceptable, although such movements must be a minimal part of the routine.

### Definition of Classes

**Starters** - For dog and handlers which have not gained a third place or above in an official class at a licensed HTM competition.

**Novice** - Open to all dogs or handlers that are not eligible for Starters, and for dogs that are not eligible for Intermediate or Advanced.

**Intermediate** - Open to dogs that have won a first prize in a Novice Class, but are not eligible for Advanced.

**Advanced** - Open to dogs that have won a first prize in an Intermediate Class.

A dog must be entered in the lowest class for which it is eligible. Heelwork to Music competitions must include the organiser's choice of official categories and classes that must be specified in the schedule.



### Further information

For further information please contact the YKC office at [ykc@the-kennel-club.org.uk](mailto:ykc@the-kennel-club.org.uk) or visit the Kennel Club website [www.the-kennel-club.org.uk](http://www.the-kennel-club.org.uk)

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