

OODLEMANIA COMPETITION GUIDE

ENTRY FEES

Entry Fees for the Melbourne Royal Show Oodlemania Competition on Sunday 4 October 2026, including 2x passes to the Show, are:

ONLINE ENTRIES

Registration of entry: \$35

Class 1 - Most Handsome Oodle Dog - \$10

Class 2 - Prettiest Oodle Female - \$40

Class 3 - Cutest Oodle Puppy (3-12 months) - \$10

Class 4 - Best Fancy Dress - \$10

Class 5 - Best Groomed Oodle - \$10

Class 6 - Best Trick - \$10

Class 7 - Best Recall - \$10

Class 8 - Oodlemania Champion (winners of Classes 1-7) - FREE!

PRIZES

Classes 1-7

WINNERS

- \$100 cash
- 9kg LifeWise product
- Rosette
- Melbourne Royal Certificate

RUNNERS UP

- 2.5kg bags of LifeWise product
- Sash

Class 8 Oodlemania Champion

WINNER

- \$200 cash
- 18kg LifeWise product
- Melbourne Royal Certificate
- Rosette
- Framed Photo

Cash prizes will be paid within 30 days of competition end to a nominated bank account. Melbourne Royal will contact winners post-Show. Photos and Certificates will be posted to winners post-Show to the address on their entry.



TICKETING

Each exhibitor is allocated 2 entry tickets to enter the Showgrounds on Sunday 4th October.

ENTRIES CLOSE 10 SEPTEMBER 2026

Entries received after this date will not be accepted.

Melbourne Royal reserves the right to close entries before the official closing Day of Entry as we have restricted the number of entries for the 2026 Oodlemania Competition to 150 exhibits.

CONTACT

Dogs Competition Assistant

Telephone: 03 9281 7444

Email: dogs@melbourneroyal.com.au

ENTRY ELIGIBILITY

All dogs must be registered with the owner's residential local council.

All dogs must have a current vaccination certificate. Please consult your vet.

Titre tests are accepted. Proof of vaccine certificate/titre test must accompany the entry.

CLASS GUIDE

Most Handsome, Prettiest, and Cutest Puppy

What makes your oodle stand out to you? Has he got deep, soulful eyes? Is she exceptionally funny? Does your puppy have the silliest tail wag?

What is the judge looking for?

- Temperament.
- Personality.
- Coat condition.
- Interactions with handler and judge.

Best Groomed

Whether you groom your pup yourself or enlist the help of a professional, grooming is an important part of Oodle ownership. This class is for those who want to show off the hard work, training, and relationship building that goes into grooming. The judge for this class may not have any professional grooming experience.

What is the judge looking for?

- Coat cleanliness and condition.
- Quality of the grooming finish. Eg, hair in eyes, tufts sticking out.
- Does the groom suit the dog?

Fancy Dress

For the pup with a sense for fashion. The limit is your imagination as your pup struts their stuff on the “dogwalk”. Costumes must not restrict the dogs movement or cause discomfort in any way.

What is the judge looking for?

- Clear theming.
- Creativity.
- Presentation.

Best Recall

Recommended to have 2 people to handle each dog.

Demonstrate your dog’s best recall. In small groups of 2-3, dogs will stay at one side of the ring by a handler. The owner will be 10 metres away and will call the dog when instructed by the judge.

What is the judge looking for?

- Prompt response to the recall cue.
- Speed and enthusiasm.
- Ignoring distractions.
- Overall teamwork and positive handling.

CLASS GUIDE

Best Trick

Showcase your training, teamwork, and creativity. You've got 1 minute to show off your favourite tricks and your dogs flair and personality.

What is the judge looking for?

- Difficulty of tricks.
- Accuracy/execution
- Teamwork
- Entertainment

Trick Examples small props are permitted:

- sit
- lay down
- roll over
- high five
- shake hands
- spin
- speak/bark on cue
- weave through legs
- retrieve items
- bow
- jump through arms/hoop
- walk backwards
- carry a basket
- play dead

FAQS

1. What will the day look like?

You will arrive in the morning at Gate 7 on Leonards Crescent. If you arrive by vehicle, you will drop off your dog, someone to look after the dog and any equipment or belongings you need for the day. You will then remove the car from the Showgrounds. Entry back in to the Showgrounds using Gate 7 (or Gate 9 if parked at Flemington Racecourse). You will then check in at the stewards desk and receive your exhibit number. The steward will also be able to answer any questions you may have.

You can then find a bench to hold belongings and dogs and get ready for your competition class. A staff member will provide information of which rings will hold which class and advise of the class order. When advised by a steward you will bring your dog to the marshalling area ready to be judged. In the downtime between classes you can enjoy the company of like minded oodle owners, exercise and relieve your dog in the designated areas, or watch the other competition classes. Dogs must remain in the competition precinct, if you are near a food vendor, or a show game or ride, or other animals, you are too far. When the competition is complete and you have collected your winnings and packed your belongings you can exit through Gate 7.

2. What is expected in the ring?

You will be given an exhibit number, this is how we will identify you and your dog throughout the day. You will be asked to line up in a marshalling area in order of exhibit number and then guided to the ring. Each judge may have a unique judging style and ask you to perform various movements such as walk around the edge of the ring, or walk to a designated spot and back, or the judge may want to meet your dog and give them a pat and talk to them. If you are performing in a recall or trick class you will be guided by a steward as to how and when you can start the recall/trick. When the judge is finished with their assessment you will be asked to wait at the sideline. You may be asked to return to the ring for a final perusal by the judge. Then the winner of the class will be announced. If you win the class your dog is eligible to win Champion Oodle, we ask that you do not leave before the Champion Oodle class.

3. What are the timings of the day?

The exhibition is open to the public from 9 am until 2pm. We expect all participants to be in the pavilion from 9 am. Judging will take place between 10am and 2pm.

4. Is food and water provided for my dog?

Water for your dog is readily available. No food will be provided.

5. Is food and water provided for me, the human?

Water is available for human consumption. There are multiple food and drink vendor options close to the dogs precinct.

6. What is the 'Bench'?

This is the area where your dog is expected to remain throughout the day and is the assigned space for the dog to rest. The benching area has a tether point for you to attach the dog's leash. Your dog must be always accompanied here. Your Oodle may only leave the benching area when he/she has been called up to be judged, or for exercise in the special area provided. Please refer to sections 11 and 12 of the Special Regulations for further information on 'Benching'.

FAQS

7. What if my dog needs the toilet?

Toilet areas are located near where you and your dog enter on the day. Poop bags, scoops and bins will be available for use. If you have any questions, please see one of our stewards.

8. What if my dog gets restless during the day?

There is a special area provided for the dogs to exercise in, during the day. Dogs must remain on leash at all times.

9. My dog hasn't done anything like this before, what if he/she becomes nervous or uncomfortable and needs to leave?

We would advise first taking your dog into the special exercise area. If you would like to withdraw your dog from the competition and leave prior to 2pm – you must notify the stewards. No refunds will be provided.

10. Can I bring my other dogs/non-Oodle dogs to watch?

No. No animals other than the dog entered into the Oodlemania competition are accepted on site.

11. Can I enter more than one Oodle?

Yes – you can enter as many Oodles as you would like. However, please note that every Exhibitor warrants that he/she is the Owner of every animal brought by him/her or by his/her authority onto the Showground.

12. Can I walk my dog around the Melbourne Royal grounds?

No - we do NOT allow dogs to enter the rest of the Showground. They MUST remain in the Competition precinct. Upon closing of the show day, at 2pm – dogs must be escorted from the premises through Gate 7. This is a safety precaution for both the dog and the general public.

13. What should I bring?

Consider your comfort for the day. We recommend bringing a chair for each member of your group. A place for your dog to be comfortable, a crate or pen if desired. A blanket or towel for your dog to sit on. A blanket for you, the showgrounds can be chilly in the morning. A water bowl, we will provide the water.

14. Can I take photos or record the competition?

You are welcome to take personal photos, however, not in restricted areas, ie, not in the benching area or in the ring. We have an official photographer who will be more than happy to take professional photos. A podium area will also be in use by the photographer. All class winners and runner ups are asked to see the photographer for an official photo. Podium photos are available to all competitors for photos with the official photographer only.

TIPS FOR INTERACTING WITH DOGS

- Do not crowd over top of the dog. Kneel, squat, bend down to their level.
- Dogs are likely to be generally stressed and anxious while here. These pups would never be in a situation with so many people, dogs, noises and smells other than this one day.
- Try to avoid patting dogs on the head. Aim for the shoulder, back and chest instead.
- Never put your hand into a dogs crate.
- Avoid crowding a dog in between you and the owner.
- Some dogs would rather you didn't pat them. Check his body language, see below.
- A wagging tail does not always mean a happy dog. Look at the body for other clues on how the dog is feeling.

Body language of a stressed dog

Dogs may display any number of these behaviours. If you see more than one behaviour at a time you can be reasonably certain that dog is nervous.

- Ears: ears pulled back or out to the side.
- Eyes: wide, can see the whites consistently.
- Mouth: licking lips/nose without food present. Yawning, when he should not be tired. May show teeth if approached. Drooling. Panting when not hot or following strenuous activity.
- Tail: tucked, low hanging. Tail wagging is not always a happy sign.
- Body: tense, trying to make themselves small.