

Racing

Woo hoo... your whippet has qualified and is officially a race dog!
So, what do you need to do for your first race?

The first thing you will need to do is choose a race name. Send us an email with your preferred name and we'll let you know if it's ok.

Next, if you're not already a club member you'll have to join. You can download the membership form from our [website](#) and bring it to the next race meet. Your membership fees contribute to the hiring of the track and other expenses incurred by the club such as insurance, equipment and of course the trophies and end of year fun day.

When you arrive at the track for your first competitive race let us know that your dog is qualified. Based on this our grader will register your dog on the race entry list. Once all of the dogs are registered your dog will be entered into one race for each of the two distances. Your dog will also be assigned a starting box for each race. The boxes are identified by colour as follows.

Box 1: Red
Box 2: Green
Box 3: White
Box 4: Blue

Your dog will need to wear the correct silk to match the box it has been assigned. The club has silks for loan for your first race, but we only have a few so you will need to buy them for your next race meet. They come in sets of 4 and you can buy them from the club at cost (ask about current pricing). We have 3 sizes, small, medium and large. Ask one of our committee members for help to select the right size.

The races and box draw are shown on the race boards. Check the race boards as soon as possible and get your dog into the correct silk. Note the number of the race that your dog is in and pay attention to the progress of the races. If you're in race 1 go to the track entry gate as soon as the starting marshal walks out onto the track. If you are in a later race go to the track entry gate as soon as the previous race is loaded into the starting boxes.

Fit your dog's muzzle before entering the track, to avoid delays at the starting boxes.

Watch the race prior to yours to see when the race has finished and all of the dogs have been caught in the pen or are back on the lead. Watch the starter and follow their signal to enter the track.

The marshal will arrange for the dogs to be loaded by colour, in a sequence to match the box order. Wait for the starting marshal to indicate it's time to load your dog into the box. Remove your dog's lead/harness and load your dog as quickly as possible, taking care when closing the door. Pay special attention to wayward tails!

Stand clear behind or to the side of the boxes. Get ready, set... and they're off.

Good luck & have fun!