

Northern Japanese Spitz Club

NEWS FROM THE NORTH



Issue 63 – December 2021



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Membership

New Members please apply for an application form from the Secretary

UK	Single	£ 7.00
	Joint	£ 9.00
	Family	£10.00
	Junior	£ 3.00
OVERSEAS:	Single / Joint (Europe)	£12.50
	Single / Joint (Non-Europe)	£15.00



A message from our Chairman ...

The year 2020 was not only hugely challenging for everyone, but also for us as a club. The impact of the pandemic was compounded for us when we lost our much-loved former Chairman, and one of the founders of our club, Gordon Lister who died in January 2021. Gordon really was a huge part of our club and we will miss him terribly. Our thoughts go out to his Grandson Andrew.

Well, with no shows to organise our committee decided to put their time to good use, so we sprang into action

We launched a shiny new website; worked tirelessly dealing with puppy enquiries to help people make the right decisions when buying a puppy; we also created our "Perfect Guide to Buying a Puppy" which we are told has been invaluable for many puppy buyers.

We organised virtual events; and not only did this enable us all to keep in touch with each other, it also proved to be a huge amount of fun.

We created a Japanese Spitz Calendar with images of YOUR dogs, chosen by YOU. This was such a huge success that we've repeated it again this year.

Our On-Line Dog Show, organised by Lyndsey Jones was another huge success with some great prizes and rosettes for all the winners. We also raised a staggering £500.00 for the Northern Japanese Spitz Rescue - thank you all for taking part and again, we're running another On-Line Show this coming year.

Dog Shows finally started again with our Championship Show in Leeds in July and we're all now slowly easing back into the world of showing however more of that from our Secretary, Dorothy.

Our Japanese Spitz Meet Ups started again, which were extended for 2021 to include the East Midlands and Scotland - we've had four in total all receiving rave reviews and I cannot wait to organise more for 2022. Thank you to everyone who attended.

Judges Education continued to be a priority with another Japanese Spitz Breed Appreciation Day taking place in November which was attended by some very well-respected judges who are looking to add our breed to their choice of breeds to judge.

On a personal note, I'd like to thank Stuart Edmondson who works tirelessly in the background on behalf of the club providing his technical skills to ensure we're ahead of the technology game. He was responsible for creating our new website and manages the day-to-day IT issues, also adding his creative skills to aspects of our promotional material such as the Calendar and the Newsletter.

Northern
Japanese Spitz Club



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A successful and well-run club can only be achieved by a cohesive committee and I'm hugely proud of the NJSC Committee and what we've achieved this year and the plans we've got for 2022 - thank you to every one of our committee members for your unstinting support and dedication to the Breed and our wonderful Club.

The Officers and Committee know that it's you, our members, that make the club the success it is, your support and your involvement in the events we organise is what makes the club the success it is and we'd like to thank you all for the time you take to participate in your Club.

I'd like to wish you all lovely Christmas break and a successful and peaceful 2022 and look forward to seeing everyone soon.



Julie Edmondson



A Few Words from our Secretary ...

This has certainly been another different year, although we are, hopefully, ending on a more positive note.

Our normal program of holding shows in February and July again fell foul of the Covid restrictions with the February Open Show along with the AGM having to be cancelled. One result of this was that we held our first ever on-line AGM, which worked well and meant we were at least able to officially complete our past years business and confirm our executive and general committee positions for this year allowing us to move forward with the planning of shows just as soon as Covid restrictions allow.

The committee have continued to meet via Zoom throughout the year which has helped greatly and I must thank everyone for their co-operation in doing this and also Julie our chairperson for setting up the zoom meetings.

We were finally able to hold our first show at the end of July. This was our Championship show which we held in conjunction with the Leeds Championship show and despite still having to work within Covid restrictions the show went very well with a lot of people appreciative of finally being able to get back to showing their dogs. Best in Show was Aston, Aston & Bowen's with CH Charney Precious Gift For Kumiko JW (Romeo is now the record holder for the number of CCs in the breed) with Armstrong's Llwyni Perfect Illusion taking Reserve Best in Show. Let me thank Marion Sargent who was our judge on the day and also to Barry Blunden our steward who did a sterling job keeping everything in order.

Due to the lack of shows during the year, it was decided to hold two Open shows on the same day. This would not only help exhibitors who had young dogs to gain ring experience but would also help in progressing judges for the breed as many who had completed their seminar attendances prior to the Covid lock downs were now been held up due to the lack of opportunities to gain judging appointments.

The two shows were held in October and were a great success with a number of positive comments from both the exhibitors and the judges; the feedback was so positive the committee are now actively looking at doing a double show again in 2022.

When the club was first set up in 1985, our main focus then was dog showing, but as membership numbers have grown, it's been lovely to see a significant number of pet owners join the club who simply just enjoy the company of our lovely Japanese Spitz. The Club have worked hard over the last few years in looking at how we can better involve those members and activities have included on-line fun shows – which again has again received good support and some lovely pictures of your pets.

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We have some great plans for 2022 one of which is being able to run an actual fun day where all types of owners can come along with their Jap Spitz and have an enjoyable and hopefully educational day, further information will be posted as arrangements are made.

My usual thanks to the rest of the committee members, without who the club would not be able to function.

I would like to end by wishing everyone and also their dogs a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Dorothy Serginson



Obituary - Gordon Lister

The NJSC were devastated to announce the death of Gordon Lister on Monday 25th January 2021.

Gordon was a Founder Member of the Northern Japanese Spitz Club who fought hard to get the club the Kennel Club recognition the club so deserved. He was a very active member of the committee, serving as Chairman until 2019, and after the sad death of his daughter Irene he stepped down and passed on the baton, but ensured he kept in touch - making sure the club didn't lose sight of his vision.

A true showman and well-respected breeder. Under the Gordona affix, Gordon bred some exquisite dogs, which included 8 Champions and deservedly became the joint bitch breed record holder with his beloved CH Gordona Buttons and Bows ShCM. Other champions were CH Gordona Atataikai Chokoreto; GH Gordona Hemeko, CH Gordona Kaira Nismo (JW); CH Gordona She's A Pop Star with Charney; CH Gordona Shiro Naishinno (ShCM) and CH Gordona White Crusader - if you check your 5-generation pedigree, you may find your pup is related to one of these true stars.

Gordon had the honour of judging Crufts in 2006 and his Best of Breed was the perfect, Ch Indradanush Prashanti at Akola JW who was owned by Lynne Smith

If you ever attended one of our Club shows or events, you'd often see Gordon wandering around selling raffle tickets and encouraging everyone to donate to the "Chairman's Benevolent Fund" and it was always as well not to cross him, as he proudly boasted the title of the "Hartlepool Crusher".

A true family man, with his Daughter Irene, you'd see him at all our shows, Irene managing the catering and Gordon, well, he'd be managing us and he expertly Stewarded all of our Shows until 2019, ensuring exhibitors and their dogs where in the right place at the right time.

Many will know Gordon from his time in Keeshonds too where he was also an active committee member of their Northern Club and he had an equal love for this breed - we never asked him which his favourite breed was though.

A loyal friend and mentor to many, most of our Committee Members would not be doing what they're doing in the breed had it not have been for his input, encouragement and his support.

On behalf of the NJSC, thank you Gordon, for being you. RIP our lovely friend, now reunited with Doris and Irene.





2020 / 2021 Club Show News

2020 Open Show, February 2020 - Netherton Village Hall

Our Open Show was the only show we managed to hold during 2020 before Covid did its worst. Held at Netherton Village Hall and full of the usual Northern hospitality, our judge was Nicky Garbutt.

The remainder of 2020 and the start of 2021 disappeared from the show diary completely with shows not resuming until Summer 2021



Best In Show and Best Bitch
Charney Picture Perfect
Steph Bliss



Best Dog
Charney Tomatsu
Steph Bliss



Best Veteran In Show-
Masami Skye O Llwyni
Lyndsey Jones



Best Puppy In Show
Llwyni Perfect Illusion
Ella & Kate Armstrong



2021 NJSC 7th Championship Show, July 2021 - Harewood House

2021 started slowly with no shows until late spring, Crufts was sadly cancelled but by July 2021 we were back in full swing and we were delighted yet again, to hold our 7th Championship Show back-to-back with Leeds at the gorgeous venue of Harewood House. Our Judge was Marion Sargent.



Best In Show & Best Dog
CH Charney Precious Gift for Kumiko
Richard & Kennedy Aston and Adell Bowen



Best Bitch & Best Veteran
CH Kessaku Pumpkin Paws
Krystina Chudley



Best Puppy in Show
Glamglow's Pandora's Charm
Richard & Kennedy Aston and
Adell Bowen



Double Open Show, October 2021 - Lymm Dog Training Academy

Morning Show

October saw the Club run a Double Open Show at a new venue, Lymm Dog Training Academy and what a superb venue it was. Our AM judge was Sheila Thomson and our PM Judge was Barry Blunden – both had a lovely entry of 49 dogs to choose from.



Best In Show & Best Dog: CH Charney Chandresh - Steph Bliss

Best Bitch: CH Sanyinko Silver Spirit - Tanya Church

Best Puppy: Mayumi's Perfect Prince - Debbie & Paul Turner (handled by Richard Aston)

Best Veteran: Masami Skye O Llwyni - Lyndsey Jones

Afternoon Show

After a lovely lunch, it was Barry Blunden's turn to take up the Judges mantle. Another lovely entry of 49, and after much deliberation, he finally decided on:



Best in Show and Best Dog: Glamglow's Charming as Ever - Richard & Kennedy Aston and Adell Bowen

Best Bitch: CH Glamglow's Butter Me Up - Richard & Kennedy Aston and Adell Bowen

Best Puppy: Kireina Beautiful Dreamer - Alison Gibson

Best Veteran: CH Charney Mejiro —Alison Gibson





NJSC 8th Championship Show - November 2021 - Stafford County Showground

Due to the impact of Covid, 2020 meant we were unable to run any dog shows after February 2020.

The upside of this however, was that the Kennel Club allowed us to “carry forward” our 2020 Championship Show and we were delighted to be able to hold our 8th Championship Show in partnership with BUBA Championship Show on Saturday 4th December 2021 at Stafford County Showground.

Paul Harding was our judge with Gavin Robertson judging our specials classes.



Best Puppy in Show: Mayumi's Perfect Prince - Debbie & Paul Turner

Best in Show & Best Dog: Llwyni Perfect Illusion for Owlender - Ella and Kate Armstrong

Reserve Best in Show & Best Bitch: Glamglow's Perfect Senorita of Llwyni - Lyndsey Jones

Best Veteran in Show: Ch Charney Precious Gift for Kumiko - Richard & Kennedy Aston; Adell Bowen



Crufts 2020

Crufts 2020 was the last show of the very short 2020 show season and it didn't disappoint either.

The Judge should have been our very own Irene Howe but after losing her short battle with cancer back in 2019, Rodney Oldham stepped into the breach and had a wonderful entry of 97 freshly bathed and groomed dogs to choose from.

Rodney finally whittled it down to just one, his Best of Breed, Charney Tsukino with Tazapash owned by Suzan Mootaz and bred by Steph Bliss of Charney Kennels.



Charney Tsukino With Tazapash

Best Of Breed - Charney Tsukino with Tazapash - Mrs S G Mootaz

Best Puppy - Llwyni Perfect Illusion - Mrs K & Miss E Armstrong

Dog CC - Charney Tsukino with Tazapash - Mrs S G Mootaz

Bitch CC - Maho Mirai Lea [ATC AW03201rus] - Miss E Bulygina

Reserve Dog CC - Ch Charney Precious Gift for Kumiko Jww'15 Jw Shcm - Mr R, Mrs K & Mrs A Aston & Bowen

Reserve Bitch CC - Kessaku Va Va Voom at Snowshoes - Mrs J E & Miss J Smith

Best Veteran - Ch Charney Mejiro (Dog) - Mrs A Gibson



Discover Dogs 2020

Discover Dogs in 2020 really was the lull before the storm. Covid was very much making its presence felt but the show must go on and our stand proved very popular with 100s of visitors over the four days.

Again, our stand was expertly manned with breed experts present across the four days but it was the dogs who were the stars of the show, all enjoying their time being fussed, stroked and cuddled; lots of information on the breed was handed out giving people an insight into ownership.





2020 / 2021 Roll of Honour

Unsurprisingly we had no dogs achieving their crowns during 2020 however, even with the late start of shows; 2021 has provided three very well-deserved Champions.



Ch Glamglow's Charming As Ever
Owned and Loved by Richard & Kennedy Aston
and Adell Bowen



Ch Llwyni Simba Stop N'Stare JW Sh.CM
Owned and Loved by Lyndsey Jones



Ch Sanyinko Silver Spirit
Owned and Loved by Tanya Church



Records are for breaking Ch Charney Precious Gift for Kumiko New Breed Record Holder

His journey has been one of which dreams are made and records are broken.

Born on 3rd September 2014, at Charney Kennels in Oxfordshire, it was apparent very early that this boy was born to show; he won the Reserve Dog Challenge Certificate as a puppy at his very first show and by the time he was 12 months old, he'd amassed 4 CCs and was finally given his Champion Crown at Crufts 2016.

In 2015 he was awarded Top Puppy and won 3rd Top Utility Puppy and won his Junior Warrant; he ventured overseas to the World Dog Show in Italy and was Junior World Winner.

The accolades kept on coming, in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 he won Top Dog, he also achieved numerous Group wins too with a 1 x Group 1, 3 x Group 2, 1 x Group 3 and 2 x Group 4 at all breed Championship Shows, and 3 Best in Shows at all breeds Open Shows.

In 2016 he won the ultimate title, Best of Breed at Crufts, which he repeated in 2017 and was awarded the Dog CC in 2018.



After a year out of the ring due to Covid, he returned to the ring at the Northern Japanese Spitz Club 7th Championship Show in July 2021 the true showman he is and won the Dog CC and Best in Show giving him 33 CCs and the Breed Record.

Further CCs followed at Darlington and The Scottish Kennel Club and his record now stands at 36.

Bred by Stephanie Bliss at the most successful Japanese Spitz Kennel in the UK, Charney Kennels, Romeo is loved and owned by Kennedy and Richard Aston and Adell Bowen of GlamGlow.



Breed Appreciation Day / Multiple Choice Examination, Sunday 21st November 2021 Crowton Village Hall, Crowton, Northwich

Sunday 21st November 2021 saw our 2nd Kennel Club Breed Appreciation Day (BAD) and Multiple-Choice Examination (MCE) held under JCP (Judging Education Programme) rules. Our breed speakers as before were Richard & Kennedy Aston and Adell Bowen.



With a lovely attendance of 14, the breed talk was really interactive and lively with some great questions from the attendees who were from varying breeds not just Japanese Spitz. After a quick comfort break, and with some trepidation, the examination followed and once complete, everyone could sit back and enjoy their lovely lunch.

After lunch followed an extensive hands on to enable people to really get a feel for the dogs and put in the practice that they've learned, some also attended a Group Mentoring Session to further

develop their Japanese Spitz Judging Journey.

Full feedback and certificates were then the order of the day and everyone left happy and raring and ready to judge our lovely breed.

As ever, the success of these seminars possible by the hard work of our committee and once again, a successful day, and thank you to everyone who assisted in making this such a successful day. Thank you also to the attendees, it really was great to see so many people interested in being part of our lovely breed.

Demand for Breed Seminars is growing so we'll be running further seminars during 2022 so keep your eye on the Club Facebook page and the KC press.





Time to Celebrate

In February 2021 one of our Committee Members, Zoe King, was due to get married to Aaron Canham, but Covid had other ideas.

Fast forward to July, and smaller than planned, the wedding did take place and Zoe married Aaron in a beautiful Lake District setting with family and very close friends in attendance.

As you'd expect, numbers were limited but that didn't stop her extended "family" and dog show friends celebrating in their usual "cake and alcohol-free sparkling wine" way at the NJSC Leeds Championship Show later that month.

From the Officers and Committee of the Northern Japanese Spitz Club we wish Zoe and Aaron a lifetime of happiness ... and dogs of course, lots of dogs.





Japanese Spitz Get Togethers

Covid put paid to any thoughts of Get Togethers during 2020, but as soon as things started to improve, we were off with a vengeance with Meet Ups in Leeds; Manchester; Loughborough and Edinburgh.



Our first get together was the 12th September at Roundhay Park in Leeds; the weather was so kind to us and we had somewhere in the region of 15 Japanese Spitz and their humans join us for the walk.

Many made a day of it and attended the Food and Drink Festival too, making it a really great day out.

On the 26th September, it was Manchester's turn with again, around 15 Japanese Spitz (and an honorary Keeshond) attending the walk at Heaton Park.

Again, the weather was so kind to us (a first for Manchester) and it was so lovely catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. The dogs as ever caused a stir with lots and lots of questions from people, but they all took it in their stride.



In October and November, we extended the walks to cover both the East Midlands and Scotland respectively. The East Midlands walk took place at Beacon Hill Country Park on October 24th and it was really great to see the people getting together.

The Scottish Walk took place at Lauriston Castle in Edinburgh on November 7th, a stunning location with plenty of Japanese Spitz and their humans attending.

Thank you so much to everyone who attended any of the Meet Ups this year and we look forward to seeing you all again in 2022.





Life with a Japanese Spitz - Zoe Canham

Everyone reading this will either own, have owned, or are likely to own a Japanese Spitz.

Like most Spitz breeds, Japanese Spitz can like the sound of their own voices which makes them good alert dogs to warn you against the neighbour's cat or just someone daring to come near your house! Their loyalty to their family means that they will also try to protect you against anyone trying to hurt you, like your partner giving you a hug and make sure you're still alive by giving you a kiss when you're trying to have a nap on the sofa. However, if you can look past the noise then you will be rewarded with a lifetime of love and affection (and lots of white fibres of love...)

Although sometimes wary of strangers, once you have been accepted as one of their people you will be inundated with cuddles and kisses, although they will be on their terms of course! Even the less cuddly dogs will enjoy getting a belly rub! You will never be alone with a Japanese Spitz in the house, you will even be accompanied to the loo whether you wanted to be escorted or not - how else are they going to keep you safe at all times?

They are a sensitive breed who aim to please and respond best to positive reinforcement training, and treats never go a miss too! Happy to either go a 10-mile hike or just snooze on the sofa, they are a versatile breed which can live in almost any kind of home. They have a real soft spot for children and so make brilliant family dogs, but are also laid back enough to be the ideal companion for the elderly.



They're great with other dogs too with Leo living in perfect harmony with his "brother from another mother" Taz, the Keeshond.

Yes, it's no wonder that many people don't look back after getting a Japanese Spitz as they do become so infectious, but be warned, even a 5-minute walk to the shop will take half an hour with a Japanese Spitz in tow due to all the attention they attract from passer-by's - usually starting with the question "what breed are they? And, of course -

I bet it's hard to keep them clean!"

They have an impressive plush white double coat which requires regular brushing, and if they get used to it young then they will enjoy the one-to-one bonding time with you - especially if there's a treat at the end of it!

Living with a Japanese Spitz definitely provides you with entertainment, 24/7 therapy, unconditional love, lots of fur, but also makes you part of an amazing community of other like-minded, spitz loving people! And if you're really lucky, you may even get one that sings to let you know when "Tipping Point" is starting on the TV (it has been known!)



Charney Rescue

In early 2020 the Northern Japanese Spitz Club put together a comprehensive "Guide to Buying a Puppy" which covers everything from how to find an ethical breeder and what questions to ask to ensure you're getting a happy, healthy puppy. Also, in 2020 the pandemic pushed both the demand, and the cost of puppies through to the roof and lockdown puppies became a reality.

We dealt with many enquiries and provided a huge amount of support and advice to potential owners and now that people are heading back to work, we've been bracing ourselves for a potential influx of dogs - raising extra funds just in case, but so far, our fears have not become a reality.

However, dog ownership does not always end well and should any Japanese Spitz owner find that their circumstances have changed and you can no longer care for your dog, in the first instance, do contact your breeder; if that fails, please contact a Breed Club. You will never be judged; all we want is for you and your dog to be safe and happy and we'll do everything we can to help you resolve the problem.

Many feel that Rescue Centres are the only option, but, in reality, they're not. Please don't surrender your dog to a Dog Rescue Centre as most will not allow the dog to come to Breed Rescue which is where we can always ensure the dog gets the best possible, well-matched home.

Stephanie Bliss of Charney Pet Care Centre has run Japanese Spitz Breed rescue for over 35 years; any dogs that come in to rescue or are waiting to be rehomed live alongside her own dogs, having the full run of the paddock - so it's not really the type of rescue that people think it is. The dogs are socialised and were necessary, rehabilitated and then all future homes are fully vetted before a dog is rehomed.

The Northern Japanese Spitz Club have been involved in a number of rescues / rehomes over the last few years which has involved transporting dogs to either our Rescue Centre in Oxfordshire or to their new forever home, we would never refuse a request for help.

Our most recent rehome was Sasha during the pandemic, a beautiful 3-year-old little girl whose owners could no longer care for her, she was taken to Charney and in no time at all, a new loving home had been found for her and Sasha is now living her best life in Bolton.





My Junior Handling Journey - Lyndsey Jones

I remember being told "Junior handling is an art", and how right that was! When I look back at my junior handling career, I am so thankful to every single person who helped me along the way and made me into the handler I am today.

I originally started competing in Junior Handling competitions and showing in general when I was 14 years old - somewhat later than when most juniors start.

I never had family or any relatives that had been dog showing before, so had to learn the ropes all by myself. I would spend my spare time practicing not only at ringcraft classes and home, but also by watching videos online of other handlers to learn as much as possible.

My dog Kiki was never a great show dog, but she was and still is an amazing handling dog! Kiki is the reason I fell in love with handling, and showing in general - I practiced because I didn't want to let her down, just as I knew she never wanted to let me down either.

The first time I did a junior handling class was at a small companion show, where me and Kiki were placed first, and I was told I should seriously consider getting into dog shows by the judge - who has remained a good friend ever since.

I thoroughly enjoy my time in the show ring, whether we win or lose. Just those few minutes in there and it's just me and my dog, and no one else matters. I just love that feeling, and I believe it shows within my handling. I believe all handlers should learn elements of junior handling, skills that can be transferred into the breed ring.

I often get comments on my handling within the breed ring, not only from my own breed but from different breeds across all 7 groups.

Japanese Spitz's are not the easiest of breeds to handle, particularly in junior handling, because they are "free standing dogs". This means unlike a lot of other breeds, when standing the dog on the floor, I am not allowed to adjust their foot placement myself, and they must be stood completely square.

You are also required to get the dog completely in line with the dog in front when in the class line up, this again can be more difficult as you cannot put the dog into the position, only walk them into





it. You are also judged on the way you pick up your dog to put them on the table for judging. Japanese Spitz's are also a baited breed, but it's important not to distract the judge with your baiting technique, while still being able to keep the dog's attention and have their ears up. Junior handling isn't like normal breed showing, there is lots of complicated pattern work, including T's, L's and reverse patterns. The way you hold the lead in your hand, the way you show your dog's teeth and the placement of your own feet. The point of being a handler is to blend into the background and let your dog stand out.

So, there's a lot more to it than many people think.

I have since become the most successful Japanese Spitz junior handler in the UK, with numerous wins, but the highlight of my handling career was most definitely being awarded the title "Welsh Junior Handler of the Year 2017" when handling my homebred Japanese Spitz Nico.

I have also now made up my first Japanese Spitz Champion, I am considered one of the top junior handlers in the UK, I am a committee member of The Northern Japanese Spitz Club and a rising judge for Japanese Spitz's and Junior handling. (Editors Comment – WOW!)





Japanese Spitz - not just a show dog Krystina Chudley

Krystina Chudley lives in the South West with husband Aaron, and four Japanese Spitz, Toto, Nala, Nova and Peter Pan.

An experienced exhibitor, Krystina has shown her dogs for almost 10 years and has had great success in the show ring, especially with Toto who currently equals the record for the most CCs held by a bitch in Japanese Spitz.

However, unlike many exhibitors, Krystina is involved in other dog related activities which include Agility; Kennel Club Good Citizen Scheme and Hoopers and is really keen to share her experiences and to encourage more Japanese Spitz taking part in doggy sports.

Hoopers

Hoopers is a sport for you and your dog. A little like agility it is a course of numbered obstacles that you guide your dog through and they complete in as quick a time as possible.



Hoopers consists of 'Hoops' and 'Tunnels' which the dogs run through, 'Barrels' which the dogs run around and 'touch and go mats' which is a mat that the dogs must run through.

There are no jumps, weaves or large equipment, it is all low to the ground, smooth running and generally more friendly on a dog's joints. This makes it a lovely sport for owners to be able to work any dog including those who are older or younger.

Another part of Hoopers is the distance element. You are allowed to run around with the dog and run the course with them **HOWEVER**, you get extra points for standing behind the 'points lines' or in the 'points boxes' staying still/moving less and directing them with your arms and commands. The number of points depends on how much distance you achieve between yourself and your dog.

These higher points can mean you win/score higher than another dog who may have gone faster but their owner was closer to them - it also means less running for you and you wouldn't slow your dog down if they're faster than you. This makes Hoopers great for old and young people alike as well as for a great variety of dog ages.



Competition

Hoopers competitions generally have four classes 'Hoopers', 'Tunnellers', 'Barrellers' and 'Touch N Go'. Hoopers courses consist of hoops only, Tunnellers is hoops, barrels and multiple tunnels, Barrellers is hoops, barrels and possibly tunnels and finally Touch N Go which can have everything including 1 Touch and Go mat

Dogs are split into three size categories, small, medium & large, dependent on the length of their ulna - so I'd expect most Japanese Spitz to be in the small category with some just into medium.



Training

A little like the Kennel Club Good Citizens Scheme there is a Bronze, Silver and Gold course which you can attempt (it's not necessary to complete one of these in order to compete/learn but you do get a certificate and a nice rosette).

Why I started and love it

Having taken part in Agility (which I still love), we started Hoopers during lockdown as our training club paused agility training. Well after a few weeks of thinking 'this is easy' we've now realised the challenges and fun of Hoopers.

My dogs absolutely love having a run around the course, we've found that it's improved our agility, given the dogs something fun to do and is suitable for my older Japanese Spitz for who otherwise repetition on agility jumps will start to wear for them.

It also can help, as any training can, improve your bond with your Japanese spitz as you're working as a team. I've found that even if you're never planning on competing, dogs love having an activity (and 'purpose') and that using their brain tires them more than a long run around (and this has both!) Hoopers has also helped improve control when at a distance off the lead on a walk.

I wouldn't ever look back, and am looking forward to competing properly with the doggies at Hoopers next year.





Hopefully by then my Peter Pan's "wait" will have improved, it's great for obedience but stick a hoop in front of him and he cannot contain his excitement enough to 'wait' for me to let him go – but anyway that makes me happy because it must mean he's loving it!

Kennel Club Good Citizens Scheme

The Kennel Club Good Citizens Scheme is made up of four courses.

Starting with the puppy foundation course - this is mainly about having a puppy which is generally well behaved - so one of the things you have to do to pass is be able to eat a biscuit without the dog trying to steal it.

Therefore, puppy training is a great way to socialise young pups and help improve the bond between you and your pet without quite as much formality.

There are 3 further courses after the Puppy Foundation which you can complete separately (you don't have to have completed the puppy course) these include Bronze, Silver and Gold courses which increase in difficulty. You need to have completed and passed the previous test in order to continue onto the next level.

In all three there are a few questions for the owners to answer in the test - for example 'what vaccinations should your dog receive' or 'what would you do if you saw livestock in the field in which you were walking'. You should also start to learn about the psychology of a dogs training - and generally a trainer would give you ideas of methods which are useful for further training.



The Bronze course essentially consists of, showing your dog has the correct collar and ID and that you have a poo bag; that you can remove and put back on a collar and lead safely and fit them correctly; that you and your dog can walk on a loose lead; that you have control of your dog when walking through a door/gate (so generally get them to wait as you open the door and then pass through with or slightly behind you and when you say); a controlled walk around people and other dogs; a one minute stay with you at least five paces away; be able to groom/brush your dog without a struggle; be able to examine your dog (like a vet might) and a recall from at least 10 paces away.



The Silver course is a step up to showing you can play with your dog; a lead walk on a road; get your dog to wait, then once about 10 paces, away recall your dog; stay for two minutes; be able to get in and out of a vehicle in a controlled manner and be comfortable with the engine on; to be able to walk away from a distraction with your dog; a controlled greeting (so the dog not jumping up); the dog be able to be around you whilst you eat; and to be able to examine your dog like a vet might.



Gold is the highest level you can achieve. This involves a road walk with change of pace/speed; off lead call your dog back and walk to 'heel'; free walk beside you (so loose to heel off lead); to stay down for two minutes (this used to be 30 seconds out of sight however it appears now it is done completely in sight); send away to their bed; an emergency stop (be able to stop your dog from distance in any position); a settle whilst you leave the room for 2 minutes; food manners - where the dog has to wait for you to allow them to have their food and you showing you can examine your dog (e.g. handle them all over like a vet might).



After each successful test you receive a certificate and rosette (although sometimes this is at an additional charge) and can proudly show everyone who will stand still to listen to you about how clever your dog is.

I've found that the Japanese Spitz are a really great dog to train with as they are food driven and also want to please - although they can have their stubborn times.

You can then use the skills you've learnt in Good Citizens for your daily life, or as a foundation to go onto obedience, rally or some of the other dog sports.

What is really nice about the Good Citizens scheme is it isn't quite as rigid with the obedience side as in obedience competitions, for example, you need to be able to show that your dog can walk nicely with you on a lead to some form of heel - however they don't need to be pinned to your leg like in obedience.

Generally, it is all about us having better behaved and easier to live with pets.



Agility

Japanese Spitz are more than just a gorgeous white fluffy dog that looks great in the show ring, in actual fact, more and more people are taking part in more dog related sports than ever before and whilst breed showing is a very rewarding pastime, it isn't for everybody and there are many other disciplines such as Hoopers and the Kennel Club Good Citizen Scheme, whilst many take part in Agility at varying levels.

Unlike Hoopers, Agility is a fast-paced sport which is made up of various obstacles for your dog to jump over, run through and weave in and out of; it's timed too, adding to the excitement.

Agility isn't just about testing your dog's fitness either, it also tests you, the handler, in your ability to direct your dog through the course.



Credit: Catch the Memories

You've no doubt seen Agility at Crufts with jumps and tunnels being the main focus of the sport; when used together with no other equipment this is referred to as 'steeplechase'. You can then add a variety of other equipment such as weaves (probably the single most difficult equipment to master and amazing to watch when done well), collapsible tunnel, suspended tyre, A-frame with contact areas (i.e., the dog needs to touch a certain part of the equipment before leaving the equipment), and See Saw again with contact areas to create courses of varying difficulty.

Your dog can start post-puppy classes and pre-agility classes at a young age but should not learn the contact equipment at height or attempt any jumps or weaving obstacles until they are older, generally from 12 to 16 months when their joints and ligaments are more fully developed.

Although jumps and tunnels are the back bone of agility, your early days would be spent practicing your lefts and rights when landing a jump (which should at this stage be at the lowest height). You are building and developing your skills, jumping at height will come with confidence later. Jumps can then be placed in short sequences where you will continue to refine your and your dog's skills.

There is a full guide to agility on our website <https://www.thejapanesespitzclub.co.uk/agility>



Dog Showing - What's it all about?

So, you've seen lots on social media about people who show their dogs and you're thinking, "oh, that's not for people like me" - well you're wrong, dog showing is open to everyone. As long as your dog is over 6 months of age and KC Registered, you can show your dog, it's not that difficult and can be great fun (it's also a fantastic way of meeting other people in your breed too).

Dog showing is basically an activity where dogs compete against each other for awards. Dogs are judged against the breed standard (copies of which are available from the Kennel Club, there is also a copy on our website) and placed according to how they compare and how they 'move' (i.e., a walk / run that allows the judge to assess limb articulation).

Dog showing is a great way to become part of the breed dog showing community, everyone has to start somewhere and you'll always get lots of support and encouragement; the added bonus is that the dogs love it too.



Obviously, you can't just turn up on show day and hope for the best, there's a little bit of work that needs to go in first. The best way to start is by attending one of our Breed Club Shows; that way you can get a feel for what's involved and meet other exhibitors (you'll already know them from our social media sites anyway, so great to put faces to those names on Facebook) and just soak up the atmosphere. Many people think it's really stuffy and posh, it really isn't, it's informal, friendly and lots of fun.

Once you've decided you want to show your dog, you need to find a Ringcraft Class. These are run all over the country; just Google "Ringcraft Classes" in your area, you'll be surprised at just how close the nearest one to you actually is.



Ringcraft gives you opportunity to practice the skills you need to be able to show your dog, classes are usually really friendly and informative with lots of people there to help guide you.



You'll learn things like "standing your dog" in a line with other exhibitors whilst the Judge looks at all the dogs, you'll be asked to walk around the ring as a group and then, each exhibitor in turn, will place the dog on the table. The Judge will then check over the dog (also known as "hands on"); where the Judge feels the body of the dog, checks teeth and will also ask how old the dog is.



You'll then be asked to walk (often referred to as "move your dog"), moving the dog is often in a triangle and then "up and down", this is to enable the Judge to get a good look at the dog on the move; once you've "moved" your dog, you join the end of the line and the next exhibitor does exactly what you've just done.

Once everyone has gone through the process; you'll "stand" your dog again for the Judge to have one last look to then make their choice of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Reserve and VHC (very highly commended) and hey presto, you've just shown your dog.

Ringcraft Classes also run their own shows too (often referred to as Match Nights), so you'll soon be in the swing of showing, oh and be warned; it can be addictive too.

The next step is to start to look for shows to attend. The best shows are the ones that have Breed Classes, this means that only a single breed i.e., Japanese Spitz are in the classes (unlike Ringcraft where you've got lots of different breeds competing against each other). You may find that some shows don't actually have Japanese Spitz Classes but if you dig a bit deeper (or check with our Breed Club) and you'll soon find out the many shows that do have classes for our breed for you to enter.

Many larger shows also offer "have a go" days also, the clue is in the title, you can literally go along and "have a go" to see if you might like it. These are a great way of getting a feel for showing; contact us at the Club for details if you'd like to attend one.

As your confidence grows, you'll be ready to enter your first show. Again, there are lots of choices available to you, including companion shows; breed specific shows (known as Open and Limit Shows where only one breed is present) and eventually, a Championship Show.

Open / Limit shows are where there are no CCs (Kennel Club Challenge Certificates) on offer, Championship Shows are where there are CCs on offer – otherwise the shows are exactly the same and you can enter any show you like.



Open and Limit shows are great for experience; they're usually smaller too; even better, enter one of the Northern Japanese Spitz Club Shows (we run both Open and Championship Shows every year), these are usually much more relaxed than a large Championship Shows and you will be made very welcome.

Many shows offer Rosettes (our Club Shows ALWAYS issue rosettes) which are lovely to keep and our club tries to do something a little different each year.

If you'd like help in getting started showing your dog, contact a member of the Northern Japanese Spitz Club Committee and we'd love to point you in the right direction.



2022 Show Dates

Date	Show	Judge
8th January 2022	Boston and District (No CCs)	
22nd January 2022	Manchester Dog Show Society	Elizabeth Dunhill
12th March 2022	Crufts	Jean Sharp-Bale
20 th March 2022	Japanese Spitz Club Open Show	Caroline Friend-Rees
23rd April 2022	WELKS (No CCs)	
5th May 2022	Birmingham Dog Show Society Japanese Spitz Club Championship Show	Melanie Reed-Peck James Wade
22nd May 2022	Scottish Kennel Club	
30th May 2022	Bath Canine Society	Jeff Horswell
4th June 2022	Southern Counties (No CCs)	
11th June 2022	Three Counties Agricultural Society	Rosemary Stevenson-Reynolds
18th June 2022	Border Union (No CCs)	
24th June 2022	Blackpool & District (No CCs)	Lyndsey Jones
30 th June 2022	Windsor	
10th July 2022	East of England Agricultural Society	Jonathan Daltrey
23rd July 2022	Leeds City & District Canine Association Northern Japanese Spitz Club Open Show	Sarah Hattrell
7th August 2022	Paignton (No CCs)	
14th August 2022	Bournemouth (No CCs)	
20th August 2022	Welsh Kennel Club	Lynne Smith
29th August 2022	Driffield (No CCs)	
4 th September 2022	City of Birmingham (No CCs)	
9th September 2022	Richmond Dog Show Society	Steph Bliss
16th September 2022	Darlington Dog Show Society	Betty Peach
25th September 2022	Belfast (No CCs)	
2nd October 2022	Scottish Kennel Club	
7 th October 2022	South Wales (No CCs)	
16 th October 2022	Japanese Spitz Championship Show	Jim Peach
29th October 2022	Midland Counties Canine Society	Anne Kirton
12th November 2022	Northern Japanese Spitz Club Championship Show	Jeff Luscott (Subject to KC Approval)
3rd December 2022	British Utility Breeds Associations	
10th December 2022	Ladies Kennel Association	Ernie Patterson



The Japanese Spitz - Breed Standard Published by the Kennel Club

A Breed Standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is 'FIT FOR FUNCTION'. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of the breed. From time-to-time certain conditions or exaggerations may be considered to have the potential to affect dogs in some breeds adversely, and judges and breeders are requested to refer to the Breed Watch section of the Kennel Club Website for details of any such current issues. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure.

However, if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as undesirable or highly undesirable it is strongly recommended that it should not be rewarded in the Show Ring. Breed Watch serves as an 'early warning system' to identify points of concern for individual breeds. Its primary purpose is to enable anyone involved in the world of dogs, but in particular dog show Judges, to find out about any breed specific conformational issues which may lead to health problems. These conditions are known as a 'point(s) of concern'. From 2014 the way in which the Kennel Club monitors the health of pedigree dogs has been enhanced through the expansion of the role of Breed Watch. As part of this work, all Judges at Championship Shows now have the opportunity to report on any visible conditions or exaggerations that they consider to be detrimental to the health and welfare of dogs. The Kennel Club considers that Judges, Exhibitors and Breeders all need to support breed health improvements with the aim of creating a happy healthy future for dogs.

No matter how outstanding an exhibit appears in relation to the breed standard in other ways, care must always be taken to consider it in more general terms - prizes should never be awarded to dogs which are visibly suffering from any condition which would adversely affect their health or welfare eg: -

- 🐾 Lameness - including 'hopping'
- 🐾 Inappropriate temperament - refusal to be handled, timidity or aggression
- 🐾 A discharge from one or both eyes or any signs of discomfort in either eye
- 🐾 Obvious breathing difficulty
- 🐾 Obvious skin disorder or ear irritation
- 🐾 Exaggerations that would make the dog unsuited to the breed's original purpose
- 🐾 Significantly over or under weight

[Extract taken from the Code of Best practice for Judges paragraph 2.6]



General Appearance	Profuse, pure white, stand-off coat. Overall quality of body firm and strong. Pointed muzzle, triangular shaped ears standing erect. Well plumed tail carried over back. Ratio of height to length, 10:11
Characteristic Temperament	Affectionate, companionable. Slightly chary at first meeting with strangers. Alert, Intelligent, bold and lively.
Head and Skull	Head medium size without coarseness. Wedge shaped when viewed from above. Moderately broad. Slightly rounded skull, broadest at occiput. Well defined stop, forehead not protruding. Muzzle in proportion to the head, tapering to a small, black, round nose. Lips black, firm and tight.
Eyes	Dark, moderate size, oval-shaped, set rather obliquely and not too wide apart; black eye rims.
Ears	Small, triangular, standing erect. Set high, facing forward, not too wide apart
Mouth	Jaws strong with perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e., upper teeth closely over-lapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.
Neck	Strong, arched and of moderate length.
Forequarters	Moderately sloping shoulder; upper arm of sufficient length to ensure elbow is vertically below point of withers. Forelegs straight, elbow firm and tight; pasterns slightly sloping.
Body	Length from point of shoulder to point of buttock slightly greater than height at withers. Chest broad and deep. Ribs well sprung; belly firm with moderate tuck-up. Back straight and short, full of flexibility. Loins broad and firm, with a slight rise. Level croup with high set tail.
Hindquarters	Well-proportioned and balanced. Muscular, moderately angulated. Hind legs parallel to each other viewed from rear.
Feet	Small round, cat-like and well cushioned. Pads black, nails preferably dark.
Tail	Moderate length, well plumed, high set, carried curved over the back.
Gait/Movement	Light, nimble, active, energetic and very smooth.
Coat	Outer coat straight and stand-off. Profuse, short, dense undercoat, soft in texture. Shorter on face, ears, front of fore and hind legs and below hocks. Remainder of body covered with long coat. Mane on neck and shoulders reaching down to brisket. Tail profusely covered with long hair.
Colour	Pure white.
Size	Height at shoulders: dogs 34-37 cms (13½-14½ ins); bitches 30-34 cms (12-13½ ins)
Faults	Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.
Note	Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.



The Officers and Committee of the Northern Japanese Spitz Club would like to thank our members for your continued support.

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