

Running of the Wieners and Mixed-Breed Race Rules

1. You will need two people, one to hold onto the dog at the start box and one to catch the dog at the finish line. If you do not have a second person let us know and we will call for volunteers from the audience, (but lack of familiarity with the end catcher may work against you!)
2. People do not run with the dogs from one end to the other.
3. A number of qualifying heats will be run depending on the number of dogs entered. Heats will have up to 12 dogs at a time. A semi-final race with the fastest dogs will be run to determine dogs to advance to the grand finale race.
4. In the grand finale runoff, the dog that crosses the finish line first in the Running of the Wieners dachshund (advanced/intermediate) races will win the title of Marysville/Snohomish County Grand Champion; same goes for finalists in the Beginner and Mixed-Breed categories. The winners will receive a champion trophy in each category.
5. Please **do not** toss your dogs to start the races as it is better for them and you as they do run a lot faster when their feet stay on the ground.
6. No throwing balls or toys as the dogs have to run on their own, please.
7. For their own safety, all dogs must be on leash until they are ready to run the race.
8. Any dogs that jump the start whistle will be disqualified at the judges' discretion.
9. Purebred wiener dogs in the dachshund races only, please.
10. One winner can only win for three years in a row and then they will be retired to the Poochapalooza Running of the Wieners Wiener Dog Hall of Fame.
11. Race judges at Poochapalooza will have the final say on who wins, if finishes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd look very close to call.
12. These are competitive races, but they're also meant to be fun! Please remember this is a fundraiser with proceeds going to support M-DOG and Strawberry Fields for Rover Off-Leash Park. It's not Emerald Downs!
13. There is a \$10 fee to enter the dachshund races (\$7 if you pre-register online on our website, but no cost to attend Poochapalooza for you and your dogs (a minimum \$5 donation is suggested.) Please visit the event website at <http://poochapalooza.org> for more information regarding cost to enter a variety of fun Best in Show contests – including pie-eating!
14. Pre-registration is not required, but we ask you to do so if possible just so we can better track the number of competitive races that will be necessary. If you prefer, you can pay at the M-DOG/Poochapalooza Contest Booth on event day.

Bring out the champion in your dog

How to train your dog to give them the competitive edge

Start slow using short distances with two people and if they run for a ball, steak or squeaky toy then use positive reinforcement. If they come, then give them a treat. If they run faster than you expected, get happier and excited, rewarding with more treats, and so on. You will need to work with your dog over time so that they get to understand racing better.