

You can show your dog for conformation evaluation at any age. You'll find the IABCA Show Calendar at <https://iabca.com/calendar.html>. Prior to age 1, you'll be showing your dog in one of the Puppy classes. You can earn Puppy titles from these shows and it's always fun to show a puppy. For breeding qualification purposes, your dog must be at least 18 months of age when you show for conformation. It is sometimes best to wait until a dog is at least 2 years of age (or even 3) because your dog's coat will have improved considerably. Our dog's don't generally have their full, adult coat and coloring (if roan) until age 3.

Register your dog in the Open Class using his NAVHDA registration number for all 4 shows (2 on Saturday, 2 on Sunday). You'll have the opportunity on Saturday to show him to 2 or 3 judges. On Saturday, they'll offer an "Express" show, which is a show you can do between the scheduled shows. You must be pre-registered for all 4 shows in order to be eligible to do the Express Show. For Express, you just walk over to that ring and wait until the judge can evaluate your dog. You don't get any ribbons, just an evaluation and rating. On Sunday you'll have the opportunity for 2 more judges to look at him. You never have the same judge twice. If you get lucky, you'll do 3 shows on Saturday, one of which is with the International judge and you can finish Saturday with an International Champion title. If you don't get an International judge on Saturday, you can still earn a title, the National Champion title, if your dog receives three V ratings. Earning a conformation title is great for marketing a stud dog (and his litters), particularly if you're not going to be doing advanced NAVHDA testing.

One reason you may want to return on Sunday for at least the 3rd show, is to (hopefully) win the Best of Show Rare Breed award. This is only awarded once, after the 3rd show. If your dog places in the Sporting Dog group competition, he probably has a good chance of winning that award. Or, when you show your dog to the International judge, ask about your dog's chances of winning that award.

The IABCA Shows are fairly informal and mostly you sit around and wait your turn. You should bring a crate for your dog to stay in, a rug for him to lie on, and his collar/leash to take him out to potty. I now use soft-sided, popup crates, because they are lightweight and easy to carry. But for my first show I brought wire crates. Just know it can be a trek from your vehicle to the spot where you set up camp. Also know it can be very warm in the exhibition hall, so come prepared with whatever you'll need to keep you and your dog cool and comfortable. Bring a water bowl and treats for your dog. Water will be available in the exhibition hall. You may bring drinks, snacks and lunch for yourself, although they usually have a canteen that sells food at the Shows. Bring a camping chair or you probably won't have a place to sit. Dress neatly, but comfortably. Something like khaki pants/capris/shorts and a collared shirt is fine. Wearing a dress is unnecessary. Wear flat, comfortable shoes you can jog in, like tennis shoes.

At check-in, you'll be given a folder containing the documents you need to give the Show Steward at every show. Take the folder to your first Show ring and give it to the Secretary (or leave it on the table if he/she is busy). Pick it up when you're done showing at that ring, remove any ribbons/medals, then take it to your next ring and leave it with the Steward. Your folder will also contain a paper armband. The armband must be worn on your left arm whenever you are in the show ring. Bringing a wide rubber band (rather than using the skinny ones provided) can make a big difference in keeping it on comfortably. You may additionally want to pin it on using a safety pin.

Your dog does not need any special grooming, but you should make sure he is clean and combed/brushed. Comb out any/all dead hair. If he has a lot of hair sticking up

between his toes, trim it so it is not so noticeable. But don't trim it so much that it looks trimmed. You might want to use whitening shampoo if the white in his coat looks dull or discolored. Make sure his nails are clipped and ears are cleaned. Check his teeth for tartar. If he has tartar build up, clean it off. You can buy a metal, dental scraper for this purpose (I have this one: <http://amzn.to/1QfXnCz>). If you don't do these things, it won't affect your dog's conformation rating, but you'll be embarrassed when the judge lectures you on your failure to properly care for your dog.

You'll need either a slip lead (which is a narrow, rope-like lead that doubles as a collar) or a show lead for when you are showing him to the judges. The judges want as little interference with their ability to see the entire dog as possible, so you cannot use her regular flat collar and leash in the ring. I've found the best type of lead to use is called a Martingale show lead (I have this one: <http://amzn.to/1UQaPiI>), because it helps you keep your dog's head up while you trot him around the ring. If your dog has his head down, the judge can't see his shape as he moves.

You might want to practice a little, so you know how fast you need to walk/jog to get your dog to trot. The judges want you to move him around the ring fast enough that he maximizes the reach of his forelegs without galloping. If you move too slowly, he won't show the reach his front/back legs are capable of. If you move too quickly, your dog will gallop. The "ring" is actually a square or rectangle, about 50-80 feet wide, so it's not very big.

You'll enter the ring with all Small Munsters of the same sex and age group. So, all male Small Munsters in the Open Class (adults) will enter the ring together. They will leave the ring and then all the females in the Open Class will enter the ring. You may be the only one in your Class. The first thing you will do is "stack" your dog. Just walk him slowly and stop him in his natural standing position. His feet in front and back should be about even with each other and his hocks should be almost perpendicular to the ground. He should be "squared up," so-to-speak. You can reach down and place his feet, if you need to. Watch the handlers showing their dogs ahead of you and you'll know what to do. Here's a good picture of a dog in a stacked position:  
[http://brushdale.com/training/Breeding\\_Conformation/Example\\_Conformation\\_Photos/Tess\\_RIGHTSIDE.jpg](http://brushdale.com/training/Breeding_Conformation/Example_Conformation_Photos/Tess_RIGHTSIDE.jpg)

The judge will look him over and check his coat and teeth. If there is any concern about his height or length being outside the breed Standard, the judge will measure him. You will be asked to show the judge his teeth/bite, so be sure you know how to do this correctly and practice it at home a few times. First, lift his top lip off his front teeth so the judge can easily see his bite. This may be all the judge needs to see. If the judge needs/wants to see more, continue by showing the judge his teeth/bite from each side. Dogs don't like to have their eyes covered, so to show the judge his teeth/bite on the right side of the mouth, put your left hand under his chin and use your right hand to lift the top lip. For the left side of the mouth, switch hands and put your right hand under his chin and use your left hand to lift the top lip. Insert a finger into the side of his mouth while you hold the top of his muzzle so he will open his mouth briefly and let the judge count his teeth. Since he has/had to go through a teeth/bite check during the Natural Ability Test, this part should be quick and easy without any surprises.

To show off his high earset, use a plastic squeaker (taken out of a toy) to get him to raise his ears in "alert" when the judge walks up to him. Or, you can use a treat to get his attention, just make absolutely sure it doesn't get dropped. That's a big

no-no, because it can distract other dogs.

Next, you'll trot him once around the inside of the ring in a circle, counterclockwise. That's how the judge views his movement from the side. The judge will be looking for things like where his feet hit as he trots, how far his feet reach out in front, how high his back feet kick up, and how he carries his tail. Then you'll trot him across the ring going away from the judge, turn him around and trot him back to the judge. That's how the judge views his movement from the back and from the front. The judge will be looking for things like whether his feet fall in a straight line and if his knees or elbows stick out as he trots.

Next, you'll stand with him in the ring and wait for the judge to write up his evaluation and rate him. When it's your turn, the judge will call you over to the table and you'll both sit down (with your dog at your side) and go over the evaluation. This is your opportunity to ask questions. If you don't ask, the judge will assume you understand everything, so be sure to speak up. Please be sure to ask every judge, "I am here to have my dog evaluated for breeding purposes. What should I try to improve in this dog? What is this dog's greatest strength and his biggest weakness?" Ask these questions no matter how the judge fills out the evaluation form. All dogs have strengths and weaknesses, regardless of whether or not they meet the breed standards. Please write a summary of the Judge's answers on the back of the evaluation form as soon as you leave the ring (while it is fresh in your mind).

If you have the only adult male Small Munster, you'll automatically be given a 1st place ribbon/medal for "Best Male." If you want to, you can then compete against the 1st place adult female Small Munster (by stacking and trotting around the ring again) for the "Best of Breed" ribbon/medal. If you win "Best of Breed," you can then compete against all the Best of Breed winners in the Sporting Dog Group for the "Best of Group." If you win Best of Group, you can then compete against all the Best of Group winners for "Best in Show." The competitions are all voluntary and all you get are ribbons and medals, which can be fun and it gives you something to do between shows. Winning doesn't count for anything in regards to being titled. Titles are awarded strictly on the basis of ratings. The highest rating is V1 (superior), then there is V2, V3, V4 (excellent); VG (very good); G (good); and so forth. If your dog gets a V1 or V2 rating by at least 3 judges, you can earn a title. Which title depends upon which V ratings and which judges rate him. If he gets 3 V1 ratings and at least 1 judge is an International judge, he'll earn an International Title. V2 ratings or no International judge rating will earn him a National Title. (There are slightly different rules for titling puppies.)

Bring a copy of your dog's NAVHDA pedigree. After your dog has received the necessary 3 points/ratings for a Title, register your dog with IABCA, apply for and receive his Title while you are there. They'll print your Title certificate on the spot. You'll receive the IABCA pedigree and registration by mail. You can pay with cash, debit/credit card, or PayPal. I highly recommend you do this because it's much easier than sending in the forms later by mail.

I fully expect he will earn V1 ratings. He needs a V1 rating by at least 3 judges for breeding qualification. If you don't want to stay for more than 3 shows, you don't have to, but the more judges who evaluate your dog the better. Sometimes your dog will trot or stack better, so the judge sees your dog more clearly than another judge could. Sometimes one judge will see something another judge didn't see. So the evaluations often differ. Almost always, however, if one judge gives your dog a V1 rating, so will the others. Even though the evaluations differ, they're almost always consistent with ratings.

A week or two before the show, the IABCA will post the show schedule online. It will tell you what time you need to be in each show ring. The rings are numbered. Each Group has a separate ring. You'll be in the Sporting Dog Group ring. Usually they schedule alphabetically by breed on Saturday and then reverse the order on Sunday. In the past, our breed has generally shown around 8:30am on Saturday and 10:30am on Sunday. They cannot eliminate your dog from showing for being late to the ring if you're there at the posted time. However, it's not uncommon for a show to run more quickly (or more slowly) than anticipated. If they're ahead of schedule, an announcement will be made and they'll ask you to come to the ring and show ahead of schedule. Therefore, you really need to pay attention to the breeds/dogs showing ahead of you and plan to be available to show when the judge is ready for you. You don't want to be the one person holding up the Show! Similarly, you want to pay close attention to your dog's 1st place awards, because it means he can show again in the next level of competition. The competitions are not scheduled - they occur when all dogs have finished showing in the prior level. For example, if your dog takes 1st place in your Breed - "Best of Breed" (which often happens, because there's only one Small Munsterlander showing), he can compete for "Best of Group" for Sporting Dogs. That competition will take place when all the dogs in the Sporting Dog Group have finished showing. Therefore, you need to watch your ring (where all Sporting Dogs will be showing) so you know approximately when the Best of Group competition will begin. If you're not there when they call for your dog, they'll assume you do not want to compete and judging will commence without him.