

# Should My Pup Join My Ceremony?

Dogs are our loyal, loving, and silly companions. If you have a dog as a pet, chances are he or she is a furry family member!

If you can't dream of celebrating your big day without your pupper, read on, as there are many ways to include dogs in ceremonies; one is sure to meet your desire. I have officiated ceremonies with pups and they were crowd pleasers! From Martha Stewart to the American Kennel Club, it seems everyone has great ideas on ways to weave your dog into your ceremony.

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# Real Talk

First, let's get something out of the way. Including a dog in a ceremony in any form will add some logistical challenges. Be sure to think through these. Knowing your dog, will she want to sniff a lot, or perhaps doesn't listen? You and your betrothed need to come to agreement that you are willing to take on the added planning of including a puppy (or senior dog).

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# What Do You Have In Mind?

Including your dog in your wedding can come in a couple flavors.

The first is directly in the ceremony. In this style, your dog is present for the ceremony, tail wagging and all. A second route is to bring your pooch to your reception, putting a new meaning to “party animal”! And the final way is event adjacent. With this route you bring your dog’s personality to the wedding without him or her being present.

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# Adjacent to Your Wedding

If you opt to have your dog be 'adjacent' to your wedding your pooch doesn't need to be present.

- **Photos** Get some adorable photos cuddling together on a blanket in the park! Or maybe your dog will 'help' you get ready on the big day.
- **Embroidery** Have your puppy stitched on socks or a pocket square.
- **Invites** Put your doggy's paw print (more like, use a stamp) on your invitations, next to your names or initials. And don't forget that you can get custom photo stamps with her smiling face for the envelopes.

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# In Your Ceremony

Your dog could play a role in your ceremony. (Prepare for a crowd pleaser!)

- **Greeter** A very relaxed dog can sit at the top of the aisle, smiling at arriving guests. She could even be in some selfies (if her contract allows it).
- **Dress Up** If good at following directions and staying put, your best dog ever can put on a snazzy tie or rhinestone collar to join you up front!
- **Ring Dog** Your dog can be your ring bearer. A human escort and some decoy rings are all you need.

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# At Your Reception

Of course, your dog might be a party animal! You could put her on the reception guest list.

- **Greeter** once again, she can be at the door, helping guests find their tables.
- **Photo Coordinator** Your guests just might enjoy having your pup in their pictures!
- **Petting Captain** If your pupper is relaxed around people, let him roll over and get some petting in. Kids might really enjoy this.

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# Check List

Here are some important supplies to bring if you include your dog in your ceremony or reception.

- **Treats** Because dogs can be bribed!
- **Food & Water** Fend off hanger.
- **Bowls** For the food and water.
- **Collar & Leash** Bring a backup!
- **Cleanup Bags** If you know what I mean.
- **Toys** To prevent boredom.
- **Crate** In case she needs a safe space.



Read more about including your pupper!  
<https://www.vibrantceremonies.com/post/my-people-are-getting-married>

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