

The Characteristics of CFF Canine Freestyle



Choreography showcasing the **best natural attributes of the dog** is the hallmark of Canine Freestyle Federation (CFF) freestyle!

Artistic, creative, canine-focused dog work with

No tricks or gimmicks, handler dancing, costumes, props, or unnatural dog movements -- all

Illustrating the training and joyful relationship of a dog and handler team is the goal of a CFF presentation. It is raw dog work – dog, handler, music, movement, and spectators. The

Natural gait and rhythm of the dog along with the characteristics of the dog is used to choose the music for the presentation. Music chosen is often obscure and not familiar to the spectators so the spectators can more easily focus on the dog and not on the enjoyment of a recognizable piece of music.

Emphasis is always on the dog, with the handler's movements enhancing the dog. Dogs and handlers of various skill levels embark on their own

Freestyle journey and grow together as a team as they develop their relationship, train and learn together, and increase their movement vocabulary and their mutual trust and their common bond. The

Relationship between the dog and handler is a focus of the CFF experiential training discipline and of a CFF presentation. The dog and handler are

Equal partners of the CFF canine freestyle team.

Each team member is ½ of the whole and gives equally to each other. The handler gives up the standard obedience control and replaces it with a team oneness and a trust relationship. Instead of controlling, the handler enhances and supports the dog's work.

Showcasing the dog and dog movement is what CFF choreography is all about,

Turning technical obedience movements into **creative and artistic canine-focused movement**.

Yearning for the “pink bubble” and “the zone”, canine freestylers tune into their dogs to achieve a connection with their canine partner. It's always

Live! It is never “Memorex” as each titling event presentation is ALWAYS presented LIVE before spectators and the judges. The nuances and energy of a CFF presentation cannot be felt and experienced in a two dimensional flat medium.

Joy is one of the

Emotions that is evoked! Spectators see the delight of the dog and the handler team working together, moving freely and harmoniously, **creating an image of one!**

Freedom to create your own titling event test is the challenge that CFF canine freestylers embrace. It is one that may sound easy on the surface, but having a blank canvas can sometimes be a challenge! A canine freestyle presentation aims to clearly **show the dog's athleticism, attentiveness, flexibility, and training**.

Every canine freestyle team **discovers and grows as they train together**. Handlers choreograph their routines and share the **best attributes** of their canine partner with the spectators.

Dogs tell the story! The dog is the focus of the freestyle presentation - not the theme of the music, costuming, or props.

Exploring movement possibilities, canine freestyle teams

Rely on their CFF buddies who have trained eyes to give them **honest feedback** about how to show their dog to his best advantage. The team cannot see what the spectators see so the **feedback** is crucial to

Allow the team to **grow as a canine freestyle team**.

Teamwork is a hallmark of CFF canine freestyle as the judges' book states. “The bond between the dog and the handler should be apparent. Both the dog and handler should be attentive and willing partners, intangibly linked whether working together or apart. **Each member of the team should always demonstrate enthusiasm, joy, willingness and rapport**. The dog should be animated and moving forward, backward laterally and around with energy and drive. The handler's movement should be smooth, natural and enhance the dog's movement. **The total picture should be one of harmonious balance.**”

Imagination, innovation, and invention are characteristics that are used as canine freestyle teams use **improvisation and creative work studies to stretch the freestyle team**, build movement vocabulary and team trust, and create each team's unique style which they strive to make

Organic and

Natural!

What sets CFF canine freestyle apart from the other freestyle organizations?
The dog & handler team striving for the image of one to create artistry!