



Casterton Kelpie Association

Australian Kelpie Muster Festival Events

2026

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

The Casterton Kelpie Festival consists of the following events which need registration
– the Kelpie Hill Climb, Kelpie Dash and Kelpie High Jump.

Plus, the Kelpie Triathlon which is a test of endurance, speed and stamina by a Kelpie across all three of the above events.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY – for ALL events:

- All entrants **MUST** register via the online portal and follow the links.
- Only 1 kelpie per handler is permitted.
- On the day each Kelpie must be vetted by our officials prior to attending the Registration Desk, where you will receive an ID number - please refer to the Definition of a Kelpie.
- The **Registration Desk is open between 7.30am and 9.30am** on the Town Hall steps.
- Registrations close at 9.30am sharp, and late entries are unable to be considered.
- All successful entrants will be given a CKA lanyard and ID Number and tag- the committee wishes you to keep these items as a memento from the Casterton Kelpie Festival.
- Kelpie Triathlon – entrants will be issued with a blue identification bib which must be returned after the event.
- Official presentation for the winner of the Kelpie Triathlon will be made at the end of the Kelpie Hill Climb on location at approximately 4.30pm, all other event presentations will take place at the end of that nominated event.

GEELONG COLLEGE JUNIOR COMPETITOR ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- To be eligible to compete in The Geelong College Junior Competitor Event, all entrants must be 16 years of age or under as of 6 June 2026.
- The nominated child competitor must personally act as the handler of the kelpie in both the Kelpie Dash and High Jump events.
- Only one handler per dog is permitted, and the child must remain the primary handler for the duration of the competition.
- To receive free entry on Under 16 events in accordance with the sponsorship on Dash and High Jump, Geelong College competitors need to enter UNDER16 in the discount code.

DEFINITION OF KELPIE

STRUCTURE:

- Ideally should be of athletic build, however if a companion dog only, may be slightly heavier. The dog must look as though it is able to run well.
- May be a variety of heights. Some are quite tall dogs and others more compact.

COAT LENGTH:

- Varies from very short to medium length hair. Not shaggy.

COLOUR:

- Kelpies come in these colours: Black and tan; red and tan; blue (grey) and tan; fawn and tan. The tan markings are on the face, legs, underbelly and under the tail. Some black and tans may have quite a dark face ie: not a lot of tan. They can also have slightly brindle markings on the tan on legs. There may be a fawn coloured undercoat amongst hairs around neck.
- Saddle-back kelpies come in black and tan, red and tan and fawn and tan. These have considerably more tan on face, legs and underbelly. They may have a total face mask of tan.
- Plain coloured kelpies can be black; red; blue (grey) and cream or tan.
- The absence of white is indicative of the Kelpie breed, however some white on chest and toes is permissible.
- White paws, legs, broad white chest, white collar and tip of tail generally define kelpies cross-bred with Border Collies.
- The blue merle markings (white with dark spots in it) in dogs with a kelpie build, are commonly indicative of either a Border Collie cross, Koolie cross, or a Cattle dog cross.

HEAD:

- Should be balanced in size to the proportion to the body.

EARS:

- Ideally both ears should be erect, but can be heavier with tips or more, of one or both, down. Large heavy ears, lying flat against the head are not typical of kelpies.

TAIL:

- A variety of lengths, but ideally should be carried low.

EYES:

- A variety of colours, usually matching the coat. On blue and tans and blues quite often, yellow eyes.

We invite all Entrants to take part of the annual Kelpie Street Parade commencing at 10am from the Australian Kelpie Centre, please ensure you assemble at 9.30am.

We look forward to seeing you at the Australia's Kelpie Muster and Australian Premier Working Dog Auction and wish you all the best in your chosen event.