



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

The Standard

THE AKC NEWSLETTER FOR CONFORMATION JUDGES

Judging Operations Department
8051 Arco Corporate Drive
Raleigh, NC 27617 - 2010
(919) 816-3880
judgingops@akc.org

Summer 2010
Volume 11, Number 45

FIRST EVER AKC GRAND CHAMPION

By JOHN WADE

I wanted to share the excitement and joy I felt when I read the following Press Release about "Stoli", the first ever American Kennel Club Grand Champion. This truly is a special occasion for a very special member of our canine community. Through the years there have been a great many individuals and canine partners that have had a significant impact on our lives. As we celebrate the accomplishments of "Stoli" it seems appropriate to reflect and remember those that no longer grace our presence and celebrate their accomplishments as well.



To read more about AKC's first Grand Champion "Stoli" see –

AKC PRESS RELEASE, WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2010

JUDGES FEES

Members of the judging community are encouraged to provide the Judging Operations Department or one of the national judges groups with comments regarding the proposed structure of judges' fees including visiting (foreign) judges. If you have already responded to one of the national judges groups we "Thank You" otherwise please send your comments to judgingfees@akc.org no later than September 7, 2010.

AKC Advanced Working Institute

In Conjunction with

The Cleveland Crown Classic

Cleveland, Ohio

4-Day Seminar

December 16-19, 2010

For additional information, including registration, contact
Kathy Caruana, kac1@akc.org (919) 816-3862

DELORES BURKHOLDER *AKC EXECUTIVE FIELD REPRESENTATIVE*

Born and raised in St. Paul, MN, Delores Burkholder spent many weekends at relatives' farms in Wisconsin where she fed baby pigs, calves and colts. Learning animal husbandry was a perfect beginning for a future dog person. Her family did own a dog, although not a purebred. While working at her first job in 1965, she met her future husband Bob who was already involved in breeding, showing and handling dogs. Their limited breeding program in English Setters and English Cocker led to Winners Dog from the Bred by Exhibitor class at the English Setter National and Best Bred-By-Exhibitor at the English Cocker National Specialty. Those will always be treasured achievements to Delores. With the support of the boarding and grooming aspects of their business she was successful in developing their handling careers into full time all-breed handlers. This was followed by group wins in all 7 groups and multiple Best in Show Winners. Having mentors and quality dogs to exhibit led to an in depth hands-on education in numerous breeds. She was a founding member of the St. Croix Valley Kennel Club, now one of the largest shows held in the midwest

and as a member of the PHA, she was on the Board of Directors. She was then approved to judge Junior Showmanship classes. Delores joined the American Kennel Club in June of 1994 as an Executive Field Representative relocating to the Historical village of Rockton IL, a Chicago suburb. The last 16 years have been fascinating, challenging and always a continuing education for her. Each Conformation Representative works with individuals involved with the shows, they are the question and answer people for Rules, Regulations, Judging Procedures and Policies, and they advise clubs on Event Committee procedures or Event Committee Dog Disqualifications. Logically mediating situations is a very important skill as is just plain problem solving and listening. Delores acknowledges there's rarely a dull day at the dog show.



EMAIL/ USPS

INES MALDONADO

In today's world we all want to be aware of news or be notified of issues as soon as possible. So in keeping up with the times, Judging Operations has started emailing judges. Therefore, if you have an email address on file with us, make sure you monitor and read your mailbox periodically for news or any notifications. Here are a few samples of the type of emails you will receive from the Judging Operations Department:

Email acknowledgements of receipt of applications (which is the Interview/Staff committee letter), acknowledgement of request

for regular status or Best In Show request, change of contact information, receipt of breed standard exams, Provisional Status and Regular Status letters. The Staff Approval letter enclosed with the breed standard tests will always go via USPS.

In addition, you will on occasion receive emails notifying you of upcoming AKC Basic or Advanced Institutes. So again, let me reiterate how important it is to keep us updated with your correct contact information. Need to make a change? Use the **Change of Contact Information form**.

FROM THE AMERICAN SHETLAND SHEEPDOG ASSOCIATION JUDGES EDUCATION COMMITTEE



We would like to remind judges that Shelties are to be examined on the table and judged on the ground. If you wish to re-examine the Sheltie, please have the dog put back on the table, rather than re-checking shoulders, rears, etc. on the floor. At the same time, please do not expect the dog to "show" and use its ears while on the table – expression is to be evaluated with the dog on the ground. We request that judges not throw objects to attract the dog's attention, rather, that if necessary, stand a little behind the exhibitor's shoulder and see the expression as the dog responds to its person.

A note on sable merles: when the Sheltie standard was written and passed by the parent club, there was no policy that all acceptable colors be listed. Sable merle – which is a pattern rather than a color as such – is not listed in our standard. In Shelties, sable merles exhibit a wide range of sable coat colors, ranging from a coat that appears to many observers as a sable, to a coat having

a blotchy appearance, to a coat that is best described as "calico" and may even have areas of blue. We do not ask judges to try to determine whether or not a dog is a sable merle, although some will be obvious to you. Our standard lists as faults in any coat color "washed-out or degenerate colors." When a sable coat is diluted by the merle gene, it may exhibit what appears to be striping or other irregular patterning, and could be deemed degenerate, just as a dilute sable is considered washed out. It is your judgment as to how much to fault such an appearance, always keeping in mind that the overall quality of the dog takes priority.

Regardless of color or patterning, the standard says of eyes, "color must be dark, with blue or merle eyes permissible in blue merles only." Therefore, a sable, sable merle, tri color or black and white Sheltie with blue or blue merle in the eye(s) is not acceptable.



NORWEGIAN LUNDEHUND, XOLOITZCUINTLI AND ENTLEBUCHER MOUNTAIN DOG

The following breeds will be eligible for competition in regular breed classes on January 1, 2011. The **Norwegian Lundehund** and **Xoloitzcuintli** will be accepted into the Non-Sporting Group and the **Entlebucher Mountain Dog** into the Herding Group.

All Breed, Non-Sporting and Herding Group judges will receive automatic approval to judge these breeds at shows held after January 1, 2011, following the completion of the breed standard tests. Additional breed applications submitted for the balance of the Non-Sporting and Herding Groups prior to December 31, 2010 will automatically include these breeds providing applicants pass the breed standard tests.

Individuals wishing to apply using the **Adjunct Method** must submit an application and a processing fee. Judging Operations will start accepting applications between **June 1, 2010** and **December 31, 2010**. Those who miss the deadline must apply under the current system. Applications are available on the **website** or by contacting Judging Operations.



Norwegian Lundehund



Xoloitzcuintli



Entlebucher Mountain Dog

LHASA APSO: TAIL & CARRIAGE CLARIFICATION



A prospective judge of the Lhasa Apso recently brought to the attention of the Breed Standard, Judges Education, and Breeder Education Committees of

the American Lhasa Apso Club [ALAC] that there may be some confusion over how a Lhasa Apso should carry his tail.

The Lhasa Apso Standard states clearly: "Tail and Carriage: Well-feathered, should be carried well over the back in a screw; there may be a kink at the end. A low carriage of stern is a serious fault."

This means that when the Lhasa Apso is moving, the tail should be up and carried well over the back in a curl with the hair draping to the side. When a Lhasa Apso is standing he may drop his tail but it should flip up over the back as soon as

he is on the move. For more information on judging the Lhasa Apso, please contact either of the Co-Chairs of the ALAC Judges Education Committee: Leslie Baumann ltbaumann@comcast.net or Don Hanson zhanor@comcast.net.



2010 LOW ENTRY BREEDS LIST

The Judging Operations Department acknowledges the fact that typically low entries in a number of breeds make it extremely difficult to satisfy the requirement to judge them five times as a Provisional Judge. In some instances, Judging Operations will consider waiving part of that requirement.

Waiving any part of the requirement to judge new breeds five times is a matter subject to review on a case by case basis. Several other factors will influence any decision, such as: how many times the breed(s) were scheduled to be judged; how many times they were judged; how large the actual entries were; how soon the next assignment(s) is. Decisions are made considering all of the above.

Following is the current list of "Low Entry Breeds" used as a guideline when considering waiving part of the requirement to judge new breeds before granting regular status. It may also be applied when considering the availability of educational opportunities on applications for new breeds. This is the updated list **effective May 12, 2010**.

The following lists have just been updated:

2010 Low Entry Breeds

Xoloitzcuintli added to list

See Revised Table & Ramp Breeds

The Chow Chow is an ancient breed believed to be at least three thousand years old. Authors postulate that it was developed from the Samoyed, or vice versa, or that the breeds shared a common ancestor. Some believe the Tibetan Mastiff may have played a role as well. The dog is believed to have developed in northern China or Siberia. The Chow arrived in England in the mid 1700s, brought back on ships of the East India Trading Company. Unlike the Pekingese and Shih Tzu which were restricted to royal ownership, the Chow was the dog of the countryside, owned by the peasants. He is China's only native hunting dog. The dog was also used as food for the table and its pelt for clothing; in fact it was referred to as "the edible dog of China".

The early Chow had an ambivalent relationship with mankind, whereby man was both friend and deadly foe. The Chow survived by being very cautious about whom he allowed to approach and befriend. This trait of great caution survives to this day. The Chow is a highly intelligent and independent dog. Surviving on his own for hundreds of years, he can still do so in rural areas. Highly valued today as a household companion, the Chow is a calm, quiet dog of great dignity and loyalty, non-destructive of property and fastidiously clean. Not given to nuisance barking, the owner is wise to go check if the dog barks. They are very protective of their own premises and, if the owner is not at hand, will take necessary action to drive a stranger away.

The standard lists four elements that are essential to Chow type: the blue black tongue, scowling expression, stilted gait and the proper proportions with a broad chest. The first three of these essential elements were described as early as the 1780's by the Rev. Gilbert White published in *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne* observing a brace of Chows imported from China. The dogs arrived from China with these characteristics. No assessment of the Chow is complete without thorough evaluation of these three essential elements of breed type, coupled with the essential body proportions set out in the standard.

The essential stilted gait is unique to the Chow and is probably the most overlooked trait by judges, particularly at the group level. The hind legs are straight whether standing or moving. The key to understanding stilted movement is to remember that the hind leg should have no apparent bend in the stifle or hock joints when the dog is standing and the hock should be directly under the hip joint. Judges should look for this conformation when the dog is standing. When the dog moves, the entire rear leg swings from the hip joint in a straight line from the hip to the tip of the toes. Stilted does not mean jerky or short steps. It refers to the way a person moves when walking on stilts by lifting the hip to take the weight

off the foot pad of the stilt to be moved forward, yet keeping the leg straight to exert enough pressure on the foot pad to push and swing the stilt forward.

If you stand up on your tip toes (not the balls of your feet but your tip toes), lock your knees and walk forward, you will duplicate the Chow's stilted rear action. You will note that your leg, from your toes through your ankle and knee to your hip joint, is straight and all movement must come from your hip joint. Where other breeds flex their stifle and hip joints to take the weight off the foot when they move it, the chow takes the weight off its foot by a slight lift of the hip muscles. It is this slight lift of the alternating hips that gives the dog his unique slight rhythmic bounce in the rump. This should not result in the dog's tail rocking from side to side. Obviously bicycling movement with great flexing in the stifle and the hock is the antithesis of stilted action. Championship points should not be awarded to an exhibit that bicycles and certainly not group placements.

Exhibitors have not paid sufficient attention to the stilted gait (perhaps because judges have not either) so that it is not always easy to find it. Always look for it and give sufficient credit for its presence when you find it. If you have a dog with very good down and back movement but lacking a stilted gait from the side and another exhibit not as good down and back but with a correct or better stilted gait, the better stilted gait should trump the better down and back. When trying to make placement decisions, judges often move the dogs down and back again when instead they should send them around again to assess the stilted rear action from the side. Remember that what the chow lacks in reach and drive, it makes up for in powerful rump and thigh muscles that deliver great power to the body. It is important that the loin be short so that this power is efficiently delivered to the front, not lost in a loin that is rolling from side to side because it is long.

The front assembly of the Chow is the same as any moderately angulated dog. Unfortunately, we are bedeviled by a prevalent and severe lack of proper shoulder angulation. When the shoulders lack proper layback, the entire front assembly moves forward on the dog which results in the chest not separating the legs properly and these exhibits often stand with both legs coming out of the same hole. Remember that it is a narrow chest that is a serious fault, not this condition. These straight fronts should be penalized to the degree they deviate from the standard under the general provisions of the standard. In some cases this lack of angulation is so severe the dog can barely keep up with his handler who is walking very slowly waiting for him. Obviously this is unacceptable

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in a working breed. Because of these very restricted fronts, one does not often see the power the rear is capable of delivering as the dog is forced to take small steps in the rear to match the restricted front. Make no mistake, when the front is correct, they can move at a pretty rapid trot.

The next essential element is the proportions. The Chow is square with the body length from prosternum to point of buttocks equaling his height at the withers. The chest must come to the elbow; the length of leg to the elbow is equal to one-half of the dog's height. The dog must be broad front and rear. These proportions are essential to correct Chow type. It is a serious fault for the dog to be other than square in profile or to have a narrow or slab sided chest. No allowance is made for the bitches to be longer. With the stilted gait, there is no need for an allowance for the dog to be a little longer to move well. The Chow must have a compact rib cage, be short backed, short in the loin and square. No exceptions.

Many judges struggle to assess the Chow's true proportions through the thick stand-off coat. The eye sees the outline of the coat and unconsciously judges the proportions based on that outline. The outline of coat makes the dog appear longer, the body deeper and the legs shorter, particularly on the young puppies and the smaller exhibits. The show ring is populated with rectangular dogs long in loin. A common misperception is that these long dogs are rectangular because they are short on leg rather than long in body. In most cases, the body to leg ratio is correct but the dog is simply too long.

In attempting to find square, a common judging mistake is to select the tallest dogs with the most apparent leg length. Recognizing this, exhibitors are severely pruning off belly coat, pants, and base of tail to give the impression of square and of more leg despite the standard's statement that "obvious trimming and shaping is undesirable". It is really just self-preservation by exhibitors showing to judges fooled by coat. This strategy works. The pruned exhibits appear as though they have more leg and better proportions than their un-pruned competition. Judges need to be very savvy to this situation. While these taller or pruned dogs may appear more squarely built, they are still long in the loin, rectangular and rangy, not compact. A rangy chow is not correct – this is a compact tightly knit breed and the standard requires it to be close coupled with a short, broad and deep loin.

This is a "hands on breed". You cannot judge its proportions from across the ring. It is critical to physically examine the proportions and then, before moving the dog, mentally catalogue whether the visual impression from the side is matched by the

physical exam.

It is critical that you physically measure the loin by placing your four fingers in the loin, checking its length and depth. A tuck up is not correct but will not be visually evident on the rough coat Chow. A proper loin is very short, only about two and one-half to three inches. Place your fingers on a ruler so you know how many fingers equal this length. Most loins are much longer. Dog with these longer loin will never be square. A simple rule of thumb is to look for a square under the dog. This rule is more accurate for determining the length of the dog, less accurate for determining the length of leg, but both dimension should always be verified by physical examination. Always be aware that where the hair on the bottom of the chest intersects the feathering on the back of the front leg is not the elbow. This is a common misperception. Often the dense coat prevents you from determining where the dog's elbow is without physically examining it.

The head is described in detail in the standard and only problem areas will be discussed here.

The top skull is to be large, broad and flat from front to back and side to side. We are getting exhibits with rounded heads, falling off on the sides. Too many judges are only running their fingers down the center of the top skull which will not reveal skulls dropping off on the sides. The head should be felt not only from front to back but also from side to side by spanning it for size and flatness.

Along with these rounded heads, we are getting many large and low set ears. These ears tend to flare out to the sides. When they are really low and flared out, the ear tends to break, not like a Collie ear, but along the length of the ear. This is a DQ. The disqualification for a dropped ear is one which breaks at any point from its base to its tip or which is not carried stiffly erect. It is important that you feel both ears in your exam as coat may conceal this longitudinal break if you just visually observe the ears. Low set ears tend to take away from the alert, scowling expression.

The scowling expression is the third essential trait of the breed. The scowl is created by the small, erect ears correctly set; by the, deep set but clearly visible, dark, small, almond shaped eyes with a piercing stare; by the prominent brow with just a slight amount of loose skin and the deep furrow running up the center of the head just above the stop, duplicating the frowning brow of a person. Lack of any of these elements take away from the scowling expression and result in a much softer, incorrect expression.

Many judges are failing to thoroughly examine the pigment of the mouth. This is the fourth essential and defining hallmark of the breed. The most common problem areas are lack of pigment

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on the front edge or front sides of the tongue or a diagonal small stripes on top surface of the tongue extending back from the canine teeth. These small pink areas evidence a weakening of pigmentation and are disqualifying. They are easily concealed by artfully placed fingers. You are the pigment police and you must do a thorough exam. It is best to stand beside the dog's shoulder where you are better able to look forward into the mouth when you examine the mouth pigment. Make sure you see the tip of the tongue and the area directly behind the canines. I will rub my thumb pad up the end of the dog's nose as they will often extend the tongue out to lick their nose and give me a better look. Any pink, regardless of how small, on the top or sides of the tongue is disqualifying. Pink on the underside of the tongue is almost always present but it is of no concern and is not disqualifying.

Cinnamons and blues may have lighter tongue and eye pigment but the mouth must still be distinctly purple, never pinkish. The darkness of the pigment is related to the number of layers of pigmented tissue in the tongue. The more layers of pigmented tissue, the darker the tongue. Even though a lighter purple tongue is not disqualifying, it is not as ideal as the blue black tongue. Although pink gums are not disqualifying, they are not nearly as desirable as solid black gums. Judges should take as much care in examining the pigment of the tongue, mouth and gums as they would counting teeth in a Doberman or Rottweiler. If you cannot decide between two exhibits, go back and compare their mouth pigment.

Look carefully at the eyes. Entropion is a prevalent problem in this breed. Tearing at the inner corners of the eyes is normal and not to be penalized. But if the eye rims are uneven (because they are turned inward) or if there is a loss of hair around the eye due to constant wetness from the tearing caused by the irritation of inward turning eyelashes, the dog should be severely penalized as this is evidence of a constantly painful condition which the standard designates as a serious fault.

When you approach a chow, remember you are a stranger approaching a very dignified, aloof dog. Always approach directly from the front. Your first contact should be an open hand under the chin with a gentle scratch. You will see the dog relax and can proceed with your examination. Great strides have been made in the temperament of this breed and you will encounter no more problems with the Chow than any other guardian breed.

The Chow is an approved ramp breed. However, the ramp may conceal poor temperament. A Chow who will not stand for an exam on the ground will often stand for an exam on the ramp. The standard makes it clear that displays of aggression or timidity are unacceptable. We have made great strides in the temperament

of the Chow and we do not want to backslide. No Chow should be allowed on the ramp until the judge has ascertained that he can get his hands on it on the ground. The simplest method is to approach the first Chow in line and give it a gentle scratch under the chin and then put your hands lightly on either side of the head or even check the top skull at this point. If the dog stands steady, it gets the green light to go on the ramp. While it is being put on the ramp, go to the next dog in line and do the same thing. Then you can return to the first dog now set up on the ramp. While the first dog is exiting the ramp, motion for the second dog that you already tested to move onto the ramp and test the third dog in line. By the time you finish your test on the third dog, the first dog will be ready to move for the individual gaiting and you will lose no time. Chows are creatures of habit and this procedure has the advantage of not changing the way Chows are normally examined in the show ring when the ramp is not used.

In summary, this is an ancient working breed. Exhibits should never be so coarse as to have plodding or lumbering movement nor be unable to hold their heads up when moving. From the standard: "head is never to be so exaggerated as to result in low carriage". The movement is described as brief, quick and agile and the dog should appear to be light on his feet, never heavy and ponderous. "Elegance and substance must be combined into a well balanced whole, never so massive as to outweigh his ability to be active and alert and agile".

The final two sentences of the standard state: "Type should include general appearance, temperament, the harmony of all parts, and soundness especially as seen when the dog is in motion. There should be proper emphasis on movement which is the final test of the Chow's conformation, balance and soundness." Proper emphasis on movement must include stilted movement.



LEE HERR AKC EXECUTIVE FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

In 2005, Lee Herr joined the staff of the American Kennel Club as an Executive Field Representative. Previous to that he came from a lifelong history of involvement with dogs and Animal Husbandry. He grew up on a family farm, where he was able to witness dogs being used for their original purpose and function: Collies herding livestock, German Shepherd Dogs protecting and guarding property and livestock, Terriers controlling rodents and Beagles hunting.

In his early adulthood he started exhibiting a German Shepherd Dog in Obedience, and was immediately hooked on the Sport of Dogs. His future thereafter includes being a breeder, exhibitor, handler, judge and active club member. Additionally, he has participated in all aspects of Obedience, Conformation, Going to Ground Competition and Beagle Field Trials.

Lee has been a Show Chairman for more than 20 years, including 2 years as an Obedience Chairman, President of the New Castle Kennel Club for more than 20 years and Cluster Chairman and Coordinator for the Memorial Classic Dog Show Cluster since its inception. Furthermore, he is a lifetime member of the New Castle Kennel Club. His dog related history has included memberships in the German Shepherd Dog Club of America, GSDC of W. PA., American Fox Terrier Club, Smooth Fox Terrier Club and Glen

of Imaal Terrier Club. He was also involved in judges' organizations such as the American Dog Show Judges, Senior Confirmation Judges Association, Northern Ohio Judges Association and a founding member of the Pennsylvania Dog Show Judges. He has attended and/or participated in over a hundred individual Breed, Judging and Procedure Seminars, Workshops and Institutes.

He has owned, and/or bred various breeds including: Fox Terriers, German Shepherd Dogs, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Beagles, Collies, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, West Highland White Terriers, and exhibited many more. He had the most success breeding and exhibiting Smooth Fox Terriers under the prefix "Wild Country".

Before accepting a position with the American Kennel Club, Lee was an approved AKC judge of the Terrier Group and multiple Herding breeds. He started out his judging career with one breed (Smooth Fox Terriers) and worked his way up from there..... So it can be done!

Lee is now based out of the Phoenix, Arizona area.



ICELANDIC SHEEPDOG ILLUSTRATED STANDARD



"The Icelandic Sheepdog Association of America has created an Illustrated Standard. For further information and to request a copy of the breed video and Judges Education PowerPoint which includes movement and history of the breed, please contact Judges Education Chair, Donna McDermott, at isaabod@gmail.com. Cost is \$7.50. **Click to view the Illustrated Standard.**

Greetings Working Judge,

The Cane Corso Association of America is very excited that our breed will be fully recognized in July and we are making every effort to ensure judges feel equipped.

For your convenience we are offering online education materials, the judge's manual in printable form and in-depth breed articles. These materials can be found at www.corsoed.org. There is a list of mentors and upcoming seminars and workshops there as well.

Check it out!

THE GREAT DANE CD IS NOW AVAILABLE

This CD is a great educational tool as well as a historical record of the Great Dane. Some of the sections are:

1. The standard-This section is interactive allowing the user to take parts of a dog and change them to see how the look and parts change the appearance and conformation.
2. History
3. Movement-correct and incorrect
4. Danes as companions
5. Danes in performance events
6. Health issues
7. How to raise a Great Dane puppy

Purchase this CD by sending \$55 (includes postage) to:

Jean Highlands, Treasurer

10196 Belmeadow Dr.

Twinsburg, Ohio 44087

Also available online at www.store.gdca.org

Thank-you,

Jane Treiber

Judges' Education Chairman/Great Dane Club of America





Dear Friend,

The Board of Directors of the Border Terrier Club of America has requested that I call the following to your attention.

First, it wishes to reaffirm its previous statements regarding the Border Terrier Standard. The essence of type for the Border Terrier is the purpose for which it was developed. In a flashy, artificially groomed, and supercharged world of purebred dogs, he is a master of understatement. The Border Terrier is a natural terrier. He is a working terrier. Gone are the days that the Border could come into the ring with just “tidying” up. But the Border Terrier who enters the show ring dyed, with legs fluffed up and with gobs of facial hair, has lost his identity as a Border Terrier – a terrier developed in the English-Scottish borders used on fox, otter and other vermin.

From its first recognition in Britain and the US, border breeders and owners have been concerned that kennel club recognition might lead to changes in their appearance. In hopes of preventing this, the American Standard was written to create a blueprint of a working terrier – a terrier that would not be a fancy terrier. Form was to follow function – dyed coats, or no coats, or fluffed up legs, or gobs of facial hair, or scissored eyebrows serve no purpose for a working terrier. We have tried strenuously over the years to retain those traits that keep the Border Terrier from becoming just another fancy terrier in the terrier group. With growing popularity and success of the Border in the show ring, and the increase in exaggerated grooming, we are fearful that we may be losing the battle. For us, the over groomed picture of a fancy terrier is replacing that of a working terrier who is on his way to losing his essential breed character.

In addition, the Board of Directors has expressed concerns regarding judge’s interpretation of the standard when it comes to color and spanning.

First the Border Terrier standard describes one of its proper colors as being the color blue and tan. We would like to point out that it is not black and tan. The blue and tan must have some silver ticking through its coat. The more mature the dog usually the more ticking. Puppies should show some sign of ticking (usually on their legs). It is their belief that the black and tan should be penalized in the show ring.

The second fact is the question of spanning. Some judges are not doing it, or not doing it properly. Spanning by a man’s hands is a guide and only a guide to see if the border is able to go to ground. Obviously, there are variations in the size of men’s hands and even more so when women’s hands are compared to those of men.



Ideally the way to span a Border is similar to that of the Parson Russell Terrier. The Border terrier should be gripped behind the shoulders and lifted leaving his rear feet touching the table. This way the flexibility of his rib cage can be measured and it is a more accurate measure of ability to go down a hole after fox.

Robert Naun
Judges Education Chairman

Several AKC Field Reps have brought to our attention an unusual case from the California show rings. It seems that a bitch which happens to be a good specimen of her breed has appeared in competition with the lids of one of her eyes not only stitched shut, but actually having had the eye removed. As the judge, what would you do if faced with a similar situation? Before answering this, and the questions that follow, please ponder a previously published opinion on the subject:

"We have had occasion before to call attention to the subject of dogs out of condition, mutilated or suffering from accidents being brought before judges in the ring. A dog that has lost an eye or a bit of his tail, or has had his foot crushed or a bit of his ear taken off may be a very good dog, but in competition with a "whole" dog is sure to be handicapped. Many, of course, are too much given, when judging dogs, to look at only one point and say "light eye", dismissing the dog without considering the other 90 or 95 per cent of him. This is a matter of judgment and gauged by the amount of balance in one's nature, or whether nature endowed one with the faculty of making really logical conclusions.

However, judging defects in sound dogs and sizing up the responsibility of the owner for mutilations or losses of part of the dog are two different things. If you allow mutilated dogs to win, and which mutilations may be perfectly honest and result of a pure accident, you may be leaving open the door to others not too scrupulous. It is often a fact that when a dog is mutilated or has lost part of himself by accident it does not really, in many cases, detract from his value as a good specimen of his breed, but it is the question of drawing the line between legitimate and illegitimate disfigurement. Another serious point to consider is that it is hardly fair to judges who are sufficiently harassed at the time of judging and who are being hurried and have so many things to consider at short notice to place upon them problems and the question of deciding these knotty points in a moment.

We have recently had in our shows dogs winning prizes that had an eye gone or were palpably partly blind, and some were in such a condition from skin diseases that the hospital was the proper place for them. Let us take the onus of deciding these things off the judges' backs."

Field and Fancy

September 26, 1903

Question: Can you judge and give awards to dogs which are blind?

Answer: No.

Question: What must you do if a blind dog is entered under you?

Answer: Disqualify it under the provisions of Chapter 11, Section 8 of the **Rules Applying to Dogs Shows**.

Question: Who makes the determination of blindness in an exhibit?

Answer: The judge.

Question: Is a dog considered blind if it has useful vision in only one eye?

Answer: No.

Question: Should a judge make a determination whether or not a change in appearance was accidental by inquiring of the exhibitor?

Answer: No.

Question: If the dog with the stitched lids and missing eye were a Dachshund, could you judge it and give it awards as merited?

Answer: Yes. The Dachshund breed standard states, "Inasmuch as the Dachshund is a hunting dog, scars from honorable wounds shall not be considered a fault."

Question: If the dog with the stitched lids and missing eye were a French Bulldog, could you judge it and give it awards as merited?

Answer: No. Under the French Bulldog breed standard, "Any alteration other than the removal of dewclaws is considered mutilation and is a disqualification."

Question: In judging a breed where this issue is not specifically addressed in the breed standard, could you judge this dog and give it awards as merited?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Could you also elect not to judge this dog and excuse it from competition and/or withhold awards?

Answer: Yes. Judges have full discretionary power. Excusal could be made under the provisions of Chapter 7, Sections 15 and/or 16. Further, if in the judge's opinion the situation were of a more severe nature, the dog might possibly be disqualified under Chapter 11, Section 8 of the **Rules Applying to Dogs Shows**.

Judges Study Guides have just been added to the website for the following breeds:

- Cane Corso
- Irish Wolfhounds
- Icelandic Sheepdogs
- Miniature Schnauzers
- Leonbergers
- Miniature Pinschers
- Collies
- Black and Tan Coonhounds



**AMERICAN
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JUDGING JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP

MARI-BETH O'NEILL (EDITORS NOTE: ARTICLE WAS FIRST PUBLISHED IN THE MAY 2000 AKC GAZETTE)

When a person chooses to judge Junior Showmanship, they agree to undertake a task with enormous responsibilities. Having participated in the program as a youngster, I know how hard these young people work. They deserve respect and consideration of those who choose to adjudicate these classes. In a very real sense, judges who take the time to work with juniors are investing in the future of our sport.

One of the biggest responsibilities for a Junior Showmanship judge is safety in the ring. The judge must be able to assess the ability of each junior to control his or her dog. Youngsters who cannot do so must be excused; they are not only jeopardizing their own safety, but that of the other juniors and dogs. The judge should mark their book junior unable to control dog and initial. Juniors with dogs that are too large for them to handle, that seem nervous, or that are wearing an inappropriate collar and lead should be noticed by the judge as the juniors enter the ring. These situations usually occur when a family is new to the sport. Although we do not want to discourage them from future participation, it is an important safety concern.

Another way of ensuring safety in the ring is to arrange the dogs by size and at the speed at which they move. Rather than rely on the steward, the judge should take control as the juniors enter the ring by letting them know where to go, where to set up their dog and where the tabled breeds will be seen. If a judge wishes to have the class enter the ring in catalog order, the entries should be rearranged before the class is asked to move.

Ring size and situation also affect the safety of the participants. If the ring is outdoors, there should be adequate shade for all of the juniors and dogs in the ring. For some judges, a Junior Showmanship class may be the largest that they will have encountered. A judge should try to get to the ring early enough to evaluate how the space can be utilized best and to develop a plan for dividing the class into smaller groups, if necessary. Once the judge decides which juniors will make the final cut from each group and has noted their armband numbers, those who do not make the cut should be thanked for their participation and excused.

It is necessary for the Junior Showmanship judge to know how each breed is presented. This includes knowing which breeds are examined on a table and which on the floor. Upon request, a superintendent will send the judge a list of the breeds that have been entered for Junior Showmanship at that event. Basic knowledge of breed standards, including breed-specific disqualifications, is required. For example, if a junior is exhibiting a Chow Chow, which can be disqualified for tongue color, the judge may ask to see the dog's tongue in order to assess the junior's ability to properly open the dog's mouth.

Procedures that would normally be used in conformation judging

should be used with juniors, with the exception that the junior should be watched as they set up their dog for examination. By watching how the junior moves a dog into position, or picks up the dog and places it on the table, a judge gains great insight into the rapport between the youngster and the dog that is being handled.

The examination of each dog need only be cursory. When judging Open classes, it is suggested that a judge ask the junior to show the dog's bite, or mouth as warranted by the breed standard. In the Novice class, this is optional, depending on the child's control of the dog. The judge may encounter a neutered dog or a dog with an evident breed standard disqualification. It is important for the judge to remember that they are evaluating the presentation of the dog and should not consider its quality. This is harder than most judges realize, since they have been trained to evaluate the dog and not the presentation. A judge should not comment on the quality of the dog; in most instances it is the youngster's dearly beloved pet.

Once the examinations have been completed, the judge will have each junior gait the dog individually in order to assess the youngster's coordination when moving the dog. The same pattern should be used as would be for regular conformation judging. In the Novice classes, down-and-back may be sufficient, or an L or triangle pattern may be used, depending on the constraints of the ring. Please be consistent with the gaiting pattern within the class.

When making final decisions, it is important for judges to bear in mind that each breed requires different presentation. Some breeds, such as the Basset Hound, will not stand and pose, while others, such as the Collie or the Shetland Sheepdog, should not be stacked but baited. The juniors who win should be those that fade into the background – not those that draw attention to themselves by mimicking the posturing of successful professional handlers, excessive staring or grinning, or wearing clothing that draws attention away from the dog. A good question a judge might ask themselves would be "Which one of these youngsters would I give a dog to show?"

The Junior Showmanship judge should also be prepared to answer questions. If a parent asks how their child can improve, the judge should ask to speak directly with the child. If time allows, the junior should be asked to set up the dog. In many instances the judge may simply recommend the child continue practicing with the dog to establish a better rapport, or the judge can try to offer a few minutes of extra guidance.

Perhaps the most important quality Junior Showmanship judges should possess is the desire to impart their knowledge and to share their love of the sport with these young ladies and gentleman. Junior Showmanship judges know that it is essential for the future of the sport of purebred dogs that we encourage youngsters and their families to continue to participate.

Breed standards are written by the Parent Clubs, and when they include a disqualification/eligibility for weight, it is the judges' responsibility to weigh dogs that appear to be outside the requirements of their breed standards. By having those limits, the Parent Clubs indicate that proper size is of great value, and they require the correct size dog. When that standard contains a disqualification or a weight variety/class limit, honor and uphold it in your ring; however, dogs may only be weighed in those instances and not when there are simply guidelines in the Official Standard for that breed.

The choice to weigh may be the judge's or the result of a protest, but if it is a protest, the protesting exhibitor must be in the ring, and it must be before all the dogs in the ring are individually examined and gaited. Dogs may only be weighed once during competition at that show. Below is a quick check list outlining proper technique. Always start out with a pleasant and businesslike demeanor to set your exhibitor at ease. Provide reassurance that you are weighing to uphold the parent club standard, and that there is no attempt to weigh in or weigh out, just to determine the accurate weight.

Procedure

- Double check the standard for the exact wording around weight. Inform the exhibitor that you are going to weigh the dog to verify that it is within the standard and be specific about what the standard says. For example, the French Bulldog standard says "over 28 pounds in weight" is a disqualification. That means it can be 28 pounds exactly but not over that amount.
- Ask the steward to call the superintendent for the scale.
- If it is a large class, continue to judge the rest of the entry while you wait for the scale. If it is a small class, you may choose to fully examine and gait this exhibit while waiting for the scale.

- When the scale arrives, calibrate the scale to zero, and then verify the calibration with the five pound weight provided.
- Ask the exhibitor to acknowledge the verification then weigh the dog as below.

The Scale

The exhibitor should place the dog in a standing position on the scale and wait for the digital number to stop fluctuating in order to determine the correct weight. At no time should the judge touch the dog, and the exhibitor must not be holding the dog during the final stage. If the scale is of a size that you consider would be unsafe or if it is not in proper working order, you may either excuse the dog under Chapter 7, Section 15 or allow the dog to remain in the ring. Either way, as the judge, it is your call. Record any irregularity in your book and initial it.

After weighing the dog, inform the exhibitor of your determination and write in your judges book "Disqualified, weighed out," "Weighed in," or "Weighed out – ineligible" with the armband number, and initial it. If the dog weighed out, you must ask the exhibitor to leave the ring and inform the exhibitor that the dog is disqualified or ineligible. If the dog weighed in, continue the individual exam and gaiting of the dog if you have not done so, and then have the dog return to the line. If the dog does not submit to the procedure, excuse the dog and mark your book, "Excused, could not weigh." A dog may not be moved to another weight variety at the show but may be entered in subsequent shows into an appropriate class.

Your exhibitors will appreciate a pleasant, efficient weighing experience for their dogs, and thank you for caring enough to uphold the Official Standard for their breed.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST JUDGES

Pacific Northwest Judges enjoyed an afternoon with AKC's Director of Judges Operations, John Wade and VP of Event Operations, Robin Stansell. Robin's wife, Cindy, accompanied him to the Rose City Classic in Portland, Oregon and presented a seminar on the Finnish Spitz during Oregon Dog Judge's Seminars.

John and Robin reviewed the new Grand Champion system and answered questions relating to all aspects of judging. Joining the judges were many who were there to attend AKC's Seminar for New and Aspiring Judges. It was an informative afternoon enjoyed by all.





Identified by some as the “hallmark” of the Breed, the combination of the individual characteristics of its coat are unique to the Kerry Blue Terrier: A previous version of the AKC Breed Standard incorporated a scale of points to be utilized when

adjudicating the Kerry Blue. The combination of the sections devoted to coat and color accounted for 25 of the 100 available points, thus emphasizing their importance relative to the over-all dog.

Frequently during seminars and mentoring sessions, prospective judges have used the term “mystery” when expressing their need for additional clarification as to how a “correct” coat should look and feel. This is understandable, since various shades of coloration and different trimming styles may be observed in the show ring at one time.

How should a Kerry coat look and feel?

In our attempt to solve this mystery, it is important to remember that the Kerry Blue is a non-shedding, single coated breed.



Soft, dense & wavy

The term “soft” can best be defined as feeling like “silk,” not having the harsh texture or feel of wool. A fuzzy, cotton-like coat is equally as improper as a harsh coat. The coat must be “dense” so as to provide protection from the elements. Additionally, the coat must be “wavy,” not straight or overly curly. It is often described as having a “Marcel wave” resembling finger waves, not curls or kinks.

The official Breed Standard section dealing with coat states:

“Correct coat is important it is to be soft, dense and wavy. A harsh, wire or bristle coat should be severely penalized. In show

trim the body should be well covered but tidy, with the head (except for the whiskers) and the ears and cheeks clear.”

The Standard provides minimal guidance as to how the coat should be trimmed, stating only that “the body should be well covered but tidy, with the head (except for the whiskers) and the ears and cheeks clear.”

A correctly trimmed coat should have sufficient length so as to not limit the judge’s ability to properly evaluate coat texture and quality. Conversely, body outlines, substance, and the make and shape of a Kerry should be apparent and never obscured by excessive length of coat. It should be snug, neat and shaped to the dog. “Blown out” or straight “stand-away” and “poodle packed” coats are incorrect.

What is the correct color of a Kerry’s coat?

The official Breed Standard section dealing with color states:

“Color is important. The correct mature color is any shade of blue gray or gray blue from the deep slate to light blue gray, of a fairly uniform color throughout except that distinctly darker to black parts may appear on the muzzle, head, ears, tail and feet. Kerry color, in its process of “clearing,” changes from an apparent black at birth to the mature gray blue or blue gray. The color passes through one or more transitions--involving a very dark blue (darker than deep slate), shades or tinges of brown, and mixtures of these, together with a progressive infiltration of the correct mature color. The time needed for this “clearing” process varies with each dog. Small white markings are permissible. Black on the muzzle, head, ears, tail and feet is permissible at any age. A black dog 18 months of age or older is never permissible in the show ring and is to be disqualified. Disqualification - A black dog 18 months of age or older is to be disqualified. (White markings on a black dog 18 months of age or older does not constitute clearing or mature color and the dog is to be disqualified.)”

One will quickly note that the only disqualification for the Breed, “A black dog 18 months of age or older is to be disqualified,” is contained within this section of the Standard. This simply means that mature color is not required before 18 months of age. Therefore, solid black dogs under 18 months of age should receive equal consideration during the judging process.

The parameters set forth in this section of the Standard indicate that the allowable color range of “blue gray or gray blue from the deep slate to light blue gray” shall serve to define “correct mature color.” This



(continued on page 13)

vast range of acceptable color is often the source of confusion for many, since no one specific color or shade is defined as "correct." One should assume that any color or shade that falls within the specified range is "correct" and deserves equal consideration.

Personal preference for any one shade of "correct mature color" is discouraged.

During the maturation or "clearing" process for young dogs, varying shades or tinges of brown can be found as the coat transitions from solid black to "correct mature color." This is normal and permissible. Small white markings and black "points" on the head, ears, tail and feet are permissible at any age. However, white

markings on a black dog over 18 months of age do not constitute clearing or mature color.

It is our hope that the information provided in this article will serve as a useful aid during the evaluation process when judging the Kerry Blue Terrier.

For additional information and all things Kerry Blue, you are invited to visit the parent club's website at www.uskbt.com.

Respectfully submitted by,
The United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club's Judges Education Committee.

ARMBANDS IN THE GROUP RING

LEE HERR, AKC EXECUTIVE FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges reads:

It is not necessary to take attendance and record absentees when judging a Variety group.

However, the Group Judge must verify that the four placements in the group have the correct armband number as shown in the Group Judge's Book.

Some exhibitors interpret this to mean "I don't need an armband number on unless I place in the Group.....then I'll put one on". Or, "I'll just stick any armband on to go in with.....I can put the correct one on later if I get a placement".

On the Contrary;

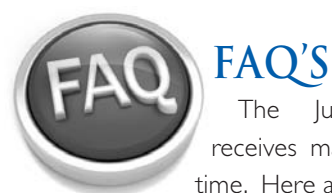
Chapter 14, Section 2 of the **Rules Applying to Dog Shows** states: **Any club or association giving a dog show must provide arm cards and shall see that every person exhibiting a dog wears, when in the ring, an arm**

card containing the catalog number of the dog being exhibited....

Therefore, the exhibitor has a responsibility to have the correct armband number on when he's in the ring at all times. Wearing an armband (the correct one) in the ring while exhibiting is not an option it's a requirement.

Judges do have the responsibility to (Visually) verify that all exhibitors placing in the Group **are wearing** the correct armband numbers.

Verbal responses such as: "I don't have my number on, but the number is seven", -or- "The number's at ringside with my assistant...I'll have them hold it up so you can see it", -or- "It's in the grooming area", -or even- "I don't have it with me, but I'll go get it if you need it" (all of which have been heard) are not valid verifications. The exhibitor must have the correct number on to be verified and valid.



The Judging Operations Department receives many of the same questions all the time. Here are some of the most commonly asked questions...

Question: May I fax my application?

Answer: No, the ONLY items permitted by fax are the breed standard exams and the Request for Regular status form.

Oops we goofed... in the FAQ's included in the Spring issue of the Standard –

Can I have my son/daughter exhibit in Junior Showmanship a dog co-owned with a judge at a show at which the judge is officiating but not judging Juniors? **-NO! the correct answer is YES!!**

But you already knew that!

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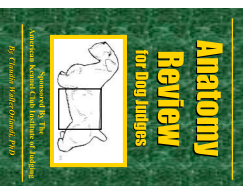
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Editor

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Contributors

John Wade

Ines Maldonado

Christie Smith

Carmen Blankenship

Field and Fancy

Mari-Beth O'Neill

Lee Herr

Delores Burkholder

Lee Whittier

Marie Mason

Production Editor

Kathy Caruana

Designer

Whistle Stop Press

Published by

The American
Kennel Club

for

Approved
Conformation
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Junior Showmanship

Judges

The
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Upcoming AKC Basic Institutes for Aspiring and Newly Approved Judges for 2010

****Remember, for those new judges granted provisional status as of January 1, 2009; before submitting your regular status request, you MUST attend a "Basic" institute****

<p>AUGUST 7, 2010</p> <p>New Orleans, Louisiana</p>	<p><i>IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LAGNIAPPE CLASSIC DOG SHOW</i></p> <p>Pontchartrain Center Kenner, Louisiana</p> <p>Time: 8:00am – 4:30pm</p>
<p>AUGUST 14, 2010</p> <p>Harrisburg, Pennsylvania</p>	<p><i>IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PENN RIDGE KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW</i></p> <p>Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex Harrisburg, Pennsylvania</p> <p>Time: 8:00am – 4:30pm</p>

For more info, including registration, contact Kathy Caruana, kac1@akc.org (919) 816-3862

[Download a Registration Form](#)

[Click here for a complete list of upcoming seminars](#)

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