



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB®

May 1, 2012

At the April 2011 meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Kennel Club, the following policy was approved unanimously to be included in the Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show judges.

[R] You Are in Charge. *As the judge, you have full authority over all persons in the ring. See Chapter 7, Sections 15 and 16, of the Rules for a review of the judge's authority. With this authority comes the responsibility to be thoughtful and considerate as you judge each dog entered according to all AKC Rules, Policies and Guidelines. Be as systematic in your ring procedure from dog to dog and class to class as conditions permit, but do take the time to encourage apparent novices.*

Individual Examination of Dogs. *Judges are expected to examine and gait every dog in the same objective, breed-specific manner even if a poor specimen may clearly be out of the ribbons. This includes breeds that according to their breed standard traditionally have been cropped and/or docked and dogs entered which may have deviations from the breed standard. Approach dogs calmly. Examine each with a gentle but sure touch and no sudden, surprising moves.*

An explanation of the appropriate procedure associated with this policy is included in the updated [Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges](#). Please review the following clarification regarding the expectation of the AKC Judging Operations Department concerning the implementation of this policy:

Judges are required to examine and gait all dogs regardless of the presence of faults within their standard (deviations) and their severity. Breed disqualifications and lameness are not affected by this policy as Judges can address these as they feel is appropriate for each individual situation and in accordance with the Rules, Regulations and Policies of the American Kennel Club.

Judges are permitted to address entries which may be obviously lame, contain evident standard disqualifications or conditions of class as provided in Chapter 14, Section 6 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows. In all other scenarios the entry must be individually examined and gaited prior to passing judgment upon them.

You are encouraged to contact the Judging Operations Department at 919-816-3570 or email to judgingops@akc.org if you require additional clarification in regard to the policy defined above.