



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB

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## The Judging Approval Process

On September 1, 2015, the new **Judging Approval Process** adopted by the Board became effective. As of this date, all applications submitted for the approval of breeds must be under the new (current) process. As outlined in the previous issue of *The Standard*, applicants for additional breeds now have the opportunity to submit applications while permit status in current breeds. This provision, along with the increase in the number of permit breeds that one may have at one time, resulted in an influx of applications above and beyond even what was expected.

From September 1st through October 31st, 151 applications for additional breeds were received for a total of 1207 breeds. In comparison, 185 additional breed applications had been received this year through the end of August. This has created a tremendous workload on the Judging Operations staff to process these applications. The Judging Operations staff appreciates everyone's patience as the applications continue to be processed.

Resulting from the initial wave of applications are several recommendations for all Additional Breed applicants to consider as they prepare their materials for submission.

- **Split applications** – If you are eligible and plan to apply for a large number of breeds (15+), consider splitting into two or more submissions. This will result in interviews for fewer breeds.
- **Pace applications** – If you have an application that is in process at the AKC, consider waiting to submit another until you are notified of the results of the first. This will prevent issues and confusion with the scheduling of interviews.
- **Respect the process** – There are many opportunities for applicant to meet the minimum criteria to apply for a given breed. Please do not “get creative.” Two examples of what we have seen thus far are breaking apart experiences to try to gain greater credit through its individual parts and listing the same individual as a long-term mentor and as a tutor. For those who may have been “creative” on an application already submitted, do not assume if you were not contacted by Judging Operations the experiences were not credited. Applicants were only contacted if the initial processing of the application did not result in sufficient CEU credits.
- **Tack-on Breeds** – Your submission is limited to those breeds listed on the AB Questionnaire. If, in processing, it is determined a breed cannot be accepted due to not meeting the minimum requirements of the policy, your application will not be held to allow you to attempt to complete additional experiences in

Continued on page 3

# The Standard

THE AKC NEWSLETTER FOR CONFORMATION JUDGES

# Perception of Judges

Following its adoption of the new Judging Approval Process effective September 1, 2015, the Board directed Staff to provide to it on an annual basis a report to gauge the impact of the new Approval Process. Staff presented to the Board at its October meeting a baseline on the matrixes to be evaluated annually prior to the September 1, 2015 effective date. Included in this report was a survey of the fancy concerning its perception of the competence of judges.

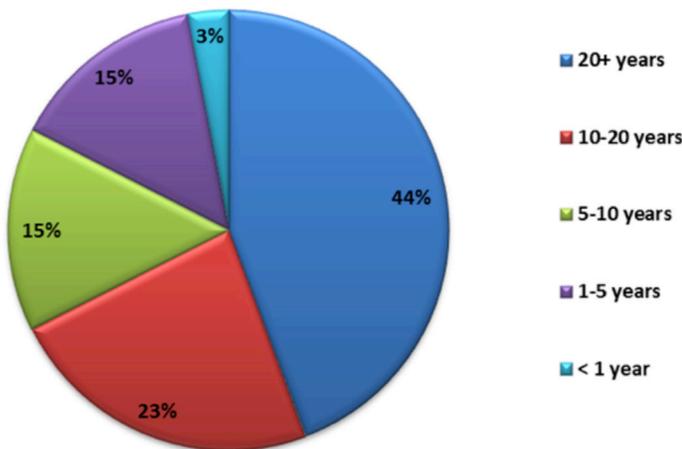
The survey, sent to customers who had entered a conformation dog show in the preceding 12 month period, was delivered to 67,419 unique email addresses removing those emails which bounced or who had opted out of receiving surveys from the provider. It was completed by 10,729 (15.9%) of the recipients prior to being closed on August 24, 2015.

The nine statements that were asked to determine the perception of the fancy:

- AKC Conformation Judges give equal consideration to all exhibitors.
- AKC Conformation Judges are courteous to exhibitors.
- AKC Conformation Judges are well versed in proper ring procedure.
- AKC Conformation Judges are knowledgeable in the breeds they are approved to judge.
- The quality of judging at AKC Conformation dog shows has improved.
- The AKC effectively addresses judges who may not meet its expectations.
- Approval by the AKC sufficiently ensures a judge is prepared to judge a breed.
- AKC Conformation Judges possess and project a commitment to integrity.
- I value a judge's opinion of my entry.

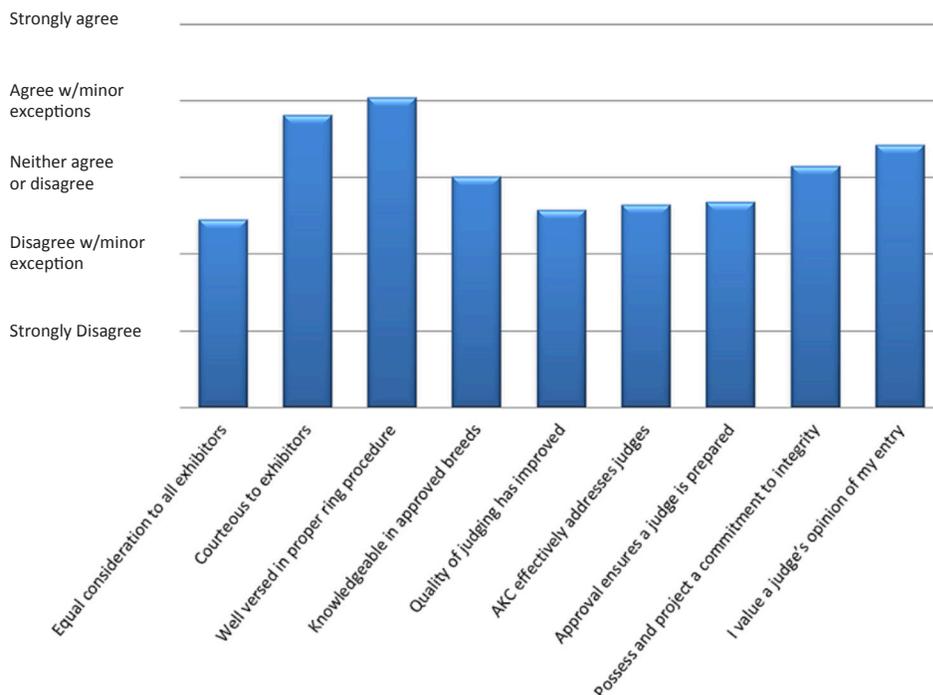
The survey consisted of ten questions in total with the first to establish the experience of the individual completing the survey. Each individual was asked to respond indicating their experience in the sport to one of five categories, Less than one year, One to five years, Five to ten years, Ten to twenty years, or Twenty or more years. Approximately 2/3 of all respondents had at least ten years of experience in the sport of conformation dog shows.

## Experience in AKC Conformation Events



The remaining questions were intended to gauge the fancy's perception of AKC judges. The respondent was asked to answer each statement specific to their experience participating at AKC Conformation dog shows with one of the following choices: Strongly agree, Agree with minor exception, Neither agree or disagree, Disagree with minor exception, Strongly disagree.

## Overall Results



The results of this survey are provided for your review as it is important to recognize how your potential exhibitors view the AKC judging community.

# Contents

~IN THIS ISSUE~

|   |    |
|---|----|
| The Judging Approval Process.....                         | 1  |
| Perception of Judges .....                                | 2  |
| Interviewing for Breeds .....                             | 4  |
| Pumi.....   | 5  |
| Sloughi and American Hairless Terrier ...                 | 5  |
| Verification Forms .....                                  | 6  |
| Your Steward .....  | 6  |
| Judging the Puli.....                                     | 7  |
| In case You Didn't Hear .....                             | 8  |
| Table Ramp Breeds .....                                   | 9  |
| Sussex Spaniel Club of America .....                      | 9  |
| Getting to Know the<br>Judging Operations Department..... | 10 |
| AKC Hires Leslie Fetzer.....                              | 10 |
| Doberman Pinscher Club of America ....                    | 11 |
| Juniors Corner .....                                      | 11 |
| Procedurally Correct.....                                 | 12 |
| It's Your Call #1 .....                                   | 13 |
| 2016 Institutes for New<br>and Aspiring Judges.....       | 13 |
| German Shepherd Club of America.....                      | 14 |
| Judge's Store.....  | 15 |
| Upcoming Seminars .....                                   | 16 |

## The Judging Approval Process

(continued from page 1)

that breed to meet the requirements. In addition, new breeds should not be sent in an attempt to replace the breed not accepted from that submission. If notified by Judging Operations that a breed or breeds do not meet the CEU criteria, the application will proceed for those breeds which were accepted. If the question is due to documentation, the applicant will be provided an opportunity to furnish what is needed before the application proceeds.

- **Do not forget the breed exam** – Exams taken as part of the seminar requirement under the previous policy DO NOT count toward this requirement. Only under the following circumstances is the breed exam NOT required:
  1. Exam previously submitted and passed as part of request to become eligible for in-ring Apprentice Trainings
  2. Had previously passed exam as part of request to judge the group under the 80% policy
  3. Breed previously applied for and not approved since September 1, 2015.

All of the items above are provided to assist in the efficient processing of your application. Remember, the expectation is that you meet the criteria to apply for the breed(s) requested at the time of submission. You are encouraged to contact **Judging Operations** with any questions or on matters that may require further clarification.

### Submitting Your Application

If submitting your application via mail please refrain from staples, page protectors, dividers, lamination, etc. While the effort on your end may result in a great presentation, Judging Operations Staff must then remove the staples, binders, dividers and page protectors to process. Applications are not evaluated by presentation.

# Interviewing for Breeds

The last issue of *The Standard* discussed many points relative to the new Judging Approval process which became effective September 1st. One of the topics covered was the interviews with the Executive Field Staff on applied breeds. There were several tweaks to the procedure and process associated with the breed interviews. To ensure the expectations are clear, we will review some of the points discussed previously and expand on others.

Applicants will continue to interview with a member of the Executive Field Staff on all breeds applied. This interview is to include the applicant "discussing" the breed covering items such as its salient characteristics, appropriate oral exam, where the breed is to be examined, and if the breed has disqualifications and where they would apply. As per the policy, the applicant must "successfully pass the interview." **What is new is that the applicant may now refer to the breed standard during the interview.** Remember though, "refer to" and "read from" are two very different things.

As part of the interview, a wicket and/or scales test will be conducted when one applies for breeds with height and/or weight as a disqualification or condition of class. Applicants who have successfully passed the exam in the five years preceding submission will be exempt from the exam **EXCLUDING** those who either received a negative observation report or failed a test on the same apparatus during the five year period. The data related to this requirement is now included in interview letters. Toward the bottom of the letter you will now find:

## Tested on apparatus within the last five years:

**Wicket Test: (yes/ no) Failed Test/Neg. Report: (yes/ no)**

**Scales Test: (yes/no) Failed Test/Neg. Report: (yes/no)**

This information will determine if a wicket or scales test will be required if the list of applied breeds includes measurable breeds. If there is a "Yes-No" combination (Yes – test in past 5 years; No- failed test/neg. report) the test

on the applicable apparatus **WILL NOT** be required. All other combinations will require the test on the appropriate apparatus. Please do not be concerned when this data is included in your interview letter and you have not applied for measurable breeds. It will be included in all interview letters regardless of the breeds applied so the Field Representative may determine if a test is necessary.

The final point to review is the ability for applicants to request to be interviewed by a different Executive Field Representative. In addition to the wicket/scales information, interview letters will also include the name of the Executive Field Representative who is assigned to the show where your interview has been scheduled. Upon receipt, the applicant may contact the office to request to be scheduled with a different Field Rep. This may require additional shows to be provided where you can meet with the Field Rep to be interviewed, which could result in a delay in the processing of the application and/or additional travel on the part of the applicant. Please do not misunderstand the ability to request a different interviewer with the ability to hand-pick one.

We do hope that this has provided greater clarity on the subject of interviews. You are encouraged to review the information provided in the Summer 2015 issue of *The Standard* as a refresher.



# PUMI



The Pumi will be accepted into the Herding Group and eligible for competition in regular breed classes on July 1, 2016.

Notification was sent to all Herding group judges to take the applicable exam to maintain group status in October 2015. Judges approved for all breeds within this group and successfully completing exam and processing fee will receive approval to judge the Pumi at shows held after July 1, 2016.

*Additional breed applications* submitted for the balance of the Herding Group received prior to **July 1, 2016** will be required to be interviewed, submit the **breed standard exam** prior to the interview and a payment of \$25 on this breed. Applicants, who fail the interview by the Executive Field Representative will not be approved to judge the Pumi and as a result, regardless of the Department's decision on the balance of the group applied, will not be approved to judge the Herding Group.

AKC approved judges who can demonstrate *significant* background in the breed may apply to judge under the Adjunct System. Examples of "significant background" would be:

- Experience in *owning, breeding, exhibiting* and / or *handling the breed*.
- Background in *judging multiple events* with a *significant number of entries*.

Individuals wishing to apply using the **Adjunct Method** must submit an application, breed standard exam and a \$25 processing fee. Judging Operations will start

accepting applications between **January 1, 2016** and **June 30, 2016**. Those who miss the deadline must apply under either the New Breed or Additional Breed method.

Application and Procedural and Anatomy Exams may be found [here](#) or you may contact Judging Operations at 919-816-3862. All exams need to be submitted with application.

# Sloughi & American Hairless Terrier

The deadline is almost upon us.

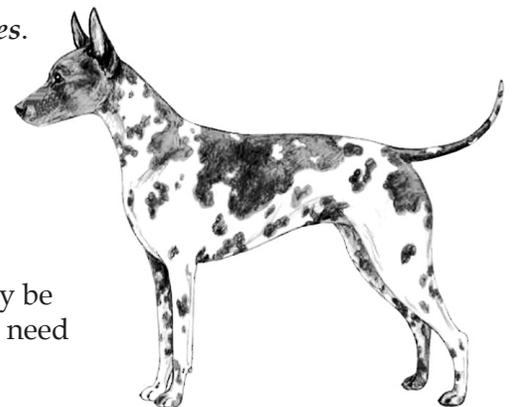
Individuals wishing to apply using the **Adjunct Method** for Sloughi and American Hairless Terrier must submit an application, a processing fee and **breed exam** to Judging Operations by **December 31, 2015**. Those who miss the deadline must apply under the current method.

AKC approved judges who can demonstrate significant background in the breed may apply to judge under the Adjunct Method. Examples of "significant background" would be:

- Experience in *owning, breeding, exhibiting* and / or *handling the breed*.
- Background in *judging multiple events* with a *significant number of entries*.

**First time applicants must have 10-12 years breeding experience, take and pass the Procedural and Anatomy Exams, have judged at AKC or Non-AKC events at least six times and stewarded at least 6 times at AKC member or licensed events.**

Applicants who meet these requirements may apply by downloading the application; first time applicants will also need to download the Procedural and Anatomy Exams. Application and Procedural and Anatomy Exams may be found [here](#) or you may contact Judging Operations at 919-816-3862. Exams need to be submitted with application.



# Verification Forms

Verification forms for educational experiences can be found on the AKC website. They can be accessed by going to the Conformation Judging Resource Center and clicking on the link to [Additional Breed Application and Procedures](#). You can also access the verification forms packet directly by [clicking here](#).

Within this packet you will find the following forms and information related to them:

- Ringside Observation form
- Mentor/Tutoring form (also for Kennel Visits)
- In-Ring Apprentice Training form

The intended use for each should be self-explanatory. Please make sure to read the accompanying information for each. The forms must be signed by both the mentor judge and the mentor confirming that the experience as described took place.

Those who have elected to complete phone tutoring sessions for a low entry breed and wish to submit it with an application for possible credit should include a description of the experience to include length of session and

contact information of the mentor. It is also strongly recommended that confirmation from the mentor is included which could be in the form of an email or a completed mentor/tutor form. Please remember as per the policy, *“an at length phone tutoring session with a breed expert will be accepted if the Department determines that insufficient educational opportunities are available.”*

Reminder to those who are pursuing in-ring apprentice trainings: you must successfully pass the breed exam and submit a \$25 fee to Judging Operations prior to your first experience in a breed. Judging Operations will provide written confirmation that the requirements have been met. Please allow sufficient time prior to the event to send in your exam and fee. The policy also requires that you make arrangements with the mentor judge and the show chairperson prior to the event. Do not forget - the exam and fee will be credited toward future application of that breed. Finally, you should also inform the Field Representative in attendance at the show of any breeds in which you will be completing in-ring apprentice training on the day.

## Your Steward by Sydney Good, AKC Executive Field Representative

There have been numerous articles written in regard to how you as a Judge should conduct yourself, especially with new exhibitors. Being courteous, professional, knowledgeable, patient, and acting as though you are enjoying what you are doing are all part of adjudicating. But, when we get down to it, your steward is the first person a new exhibitor comes in contact with!

*“Let’s have a great day, make sure that the exhibitors have one also.”*

A Steward can make or break a novice’s first experience in the ring. Most Stewards are pleasant to exhibitors and try to assist the new exhibitor. There are times though, when they are and can be abrupt, impatient and never leaving their chair in the ring to assist. They give the impression to the exhibitors that they are doing them a big favor by giving them an armband and maybe they are just

a little too impressed with their perceived status. Where do you, as a judge, fit in with this?

It may seem a lot to ask, but you should be aware as to how your Steward is interacting with exhibitors when they come to your ring. If they are acting in too officious of a manner, you should remind them how you desire your ring to be managed. In discussing with your steward how you want your ring run before judging, set the tone by saying something such as, “Let’s have a great day, make sure that the exhibitors have one also.”

If you happen to notice that your Steward is not acting according to your request, call for the Chief Steward and request someone else to be in your ring. They are there to assist you, not hinder you or hurt your professional, pleasant demeanor. You are in charge of your ring, not them!

# Judging the Puli

The Judges Education Committee for the Puli Club of America is writing to review a few breed standard characteristics that are important when judging our breed. We ask that all judges approved to judge our breed or who may request approval in the future to please read the information provided as we feel it will assist in providing a greater understanding of the Puli.

**Examining the Puli tail.** Our standard states, *“The tail is carried over and blends into the topline.”* We do not mention length of tail at all. Puli tails come in various ways. Some are carried to the left, some to the right and some down the middle of the back. Some form a very tight corkscrew and appear as a tight knot on the back. All of these tail sets are correct. We do ask that judges not try to extend or straighten the Puli tail, particularly when it is tightly curled. This is painful and uncomfortable for the dog. The easiest way to examine the tail set is to run your hand down the topline to find the set on of tail. Most experienced Puli handlers will slightly lift the tail to expedite this process and make this easier for you.

**Acceptable Colors.** All of the accepted coat colors should be judged equally. Please see the following excerpt taken from the current AKC approved breed standard:

*“Only the solid colors of rusty black, black, all shades of gray, and white are acceptable; however, on the chest a white spot of not more than 2 inches is permissible. In the black and the gray dogs an intermixture of some gray, black or white hairs is acceptable as long as the overall appearance of a solid color is maintained.”*

The black Puli coat is unique in that often it appears dull or weather-worn, its intensity faded by time and the elements, giving it a rusty appearance, particularly on the outer layers. The Puli may also exhibit an intermixture of gray or white hairs with the black coat, but NEVER in a pattern.

Gray Pulik can range from dark steel gray to light silver gray. Gray Pulik are born dark and begin the graying process at various ages. Generally, the lighter color at maturity, the younger they are when they begin getting gray or silver hair. The gray or silver coat may appear rusty or brown-tinged due to exposure to the elements, just as the black

weather-worn coat mentioned above. Slight variations in shades of gray do exist in the adult, particularly on the legs and feet of gray Pulik. This is acceptable provided the overall impression of the dog is that of a solid color.

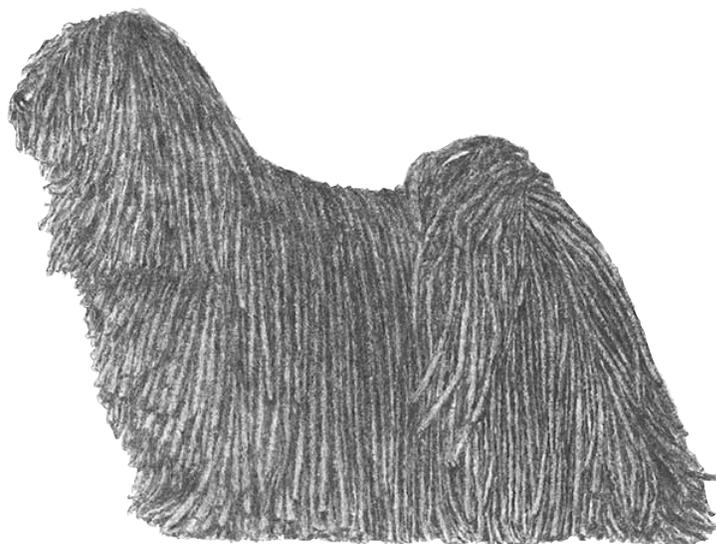
White Pulik are born white and can have a minimal intermixture of yellow or cream-colored hair; however, the overall impression of the coat must be that of a white color.

An adult Puli coat will always be weathered, regardless of color. A white spot of not more than 2 inches is acceptable on the chest of the black or gray Puli, and no other white markings are allowed.

Colors other than those identified in the standard or those with a distinct pattern in their coat color would be considered **an unacceptable color** in accordance to the AKC approved breed standard. If you have to ask yourself if this is a solid colored dog, the answer is that most likely it is not.

The Judges Education Committee welcomes your questions and interest in our breed, and asks for your help in maintaining the integrity of our breed standard.

*Barbe Pessina* – moonshadowpulik@aol.com  
*Carolyn Nusbickel* – bokar@comcast.net



# In case you didn't hear...

*As a reminder, please review each bullet below for specific details pertaining to each individual topic regarding judging procedures, policies or event programs that may impact you at future assignments.*

- At its July 2015 meeting, in order to improve the clarity of the judge's books, the Board of Directors voted to remove the check boxes for the withholding of Winners or Reserve Winners and withholding the awarding of Grand Champion points to Best of Breed / Variety and Best of Opposite Sex. Judges will be required to indicate in their book in the appropriate place "Winners (or Reserve) withheld" or "GCH points withheld." As per AKC Rules, judges may withhold Grand Champion points from an eligible entry awarded Best of Breed / Variety or Best of Opposite Sex.

Effective January 1, 2016, all superintendents and show secretaries must be in compliance with this change. It is possible that some superintendents will implement the new format prior to January 1st as they exhaust their current stock of judges books. A sample of the new book format has been posted on the AKC website and may be viewed [here](#).

- At its September 2015 meeting, as part of initiatives to improve the AKC National-Owner Handled Series (NOHS), the Board of Directors voted to require that all dogs entered as eligible to compete in the NOHS are to be indicated by an asterisk (\*) in the judges' book. This modification is to be effective January 1, 2016 to coincide with the new judges' books format.
- Exhibitors, Superintendents, AKC Conformation Judges and the Conformation Executive Field Staff have requested clarification as to what is permitted and/or acceptable when the entire entry of a breed is absent or when exhibitor(s) request that a breed be judged out of order. Judging Operations has provided guidelines on how to properly handle situations when a breed may be absent in its entirety or an exhibitor requests to move the judging time of a breed. This information has been posted on the AKC website and may be viewed [here](#).
- Effective October 8, 2015 All-Breed clubs offering NOHS at their events will now award a Reserve Best Owner-Handled in Show. The procedure for awarding NOHS BIS and NOHS Reserve BIS will be the same as the regular competition whereas the NOHS Best in Show judge shall first announce NOHS Reserve Best in Show, followed by NOHS Best in Show.

*We hope this information is helpful. As always, **Judging Operations** is available at any time to answer questions concerning these or other matters pertaining to judging. You are also encouraged to speak with the Executive Field Representative in attendance at any event for additional information or further clarification.*

## Table-Ramp Breeds

In accordance to a request from the Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America, the Lagotto Romagnolo has been added to list of breeds that may optionally be judged on a ramp, effective **January 1, 2016**.

Notification that the Lagotto Romagnolo may be judged on the ramp, at the discretion of the judge, is required to be printed in all premium lists for shows to be held on and after January 1, 2016 that offer Conformation competition for the breed.

The **Table-Ramp list** available on the AKC website has been updated to reflect this recent addition. Judging Operations will continue to send notification to all judges when modifications are made to this list. All judges are encouraged to bookmark this page to ensure they remain current with where all breeds may be judged. Do not forget, the ability to examine “optional” breeds on the ramp extends to the group and Best in Show competitions as well as the Junior Showmanship classes.

## The Sussex Spaniel Club of America

AKC Parent Club of the Breed Sussex Spaniel

The Sussex Spaniel Standard states, in its opening paragraph, that Sussex have been, since the 1800s, “an excellent hunting companion.” “Its short legs, massive build, long body, and habit of giving tongue when on scent made the breed ideally suited to penetrating the dense undergrowth and flushing game within range of the gun. Strength, maneuverability, and desire were essential for this purpose. Although the breed has never gained great popularity in numbers, the Sussex Spaniel continues today essentially unchanged in character and general appearance from those 19th century sporting dogs.”

Breed historians note that Sussex Spaniels have been depicted with docked tails since then and in both field and conformation; docked tails perform a utilitarian function and reinforce the breed’s long, low outline. Working in dense undergrowth necessitates docking to prevent injury.

The AKC approved breed standard for the Sussex Spaniel does not include any disqualifications. While most dogs in the United States have been customarily and routinely docked, Sussex Spaniels imported to this country from abroad are not. While an undocked (natural) tail may not be



customary in the US, it is considered acceptable.

When judging a Sussex Spaniel with a docked or natural tail, please remember the breed

standard’s description of correct tail carriage – *“set low. When gaiting the Sussex Spaniel exhibits nice tail action but does not carry the tail above the level of the back.”*

Tails, whether docked or natural, should not be carried above the level of the back. Sussex Spaniels that demonstrate incorrect tail carriage should be faulted.

The Standard also states “The tail is thickly covered with moderately long feather,” and “The features of lesser importance are the eyes, nose, neck, chest and shoulders, tail, and coat.”

Ultimately, it is your responsibility as the judge to interpret the breed standard and assign that interpretation to the entries in your ring. The determination of your awards should always be by the assimilation of the overall positive characteristics of your exhibits.

Sussex Spaniel Club of America



# Getting to Know the Judging Operations Department

In our continuing series of “Getting to know the Judging Operations Department,” I would like to introduce **Ms. Judieth Brite**. While Judieth has many responsibilities with the AKC, most of you are familiar with her name as she is the primary member of the Judging Operations staff responsible for the processing of Additional Breed applications and Regular Status requests.

Name: **Judieth Brite**

Title: **Senior Conformation Judging Coordinator, Judging Operations**



1. Name: Judieth Brite! I'm kind, thoughtful and respectful.
2. Give a brief personal autobiography:
  - a. Where are you originally from? I'm originally from Merritt, NC. I spent time in Norfolk, Virginia; Dover, Delaware; and Boston, Massachusetts. I had to get out of Boston... too COLD. Then I moved to Atlanta, Georgia.
  - b. What brought you to the Raleigh, NC area, if not from here? One of my sisters and my mom is the reason I moved here. My sister was dying of cancer and my mom was suffering from dementia. (May they both RIP)
  - c. Single or married? Family? I'm single and "Living my life like it's golden." I have two sons, ages 35 and 27; three grandkids, ages 8 (girl), 20 months (girl), and 7 months (boy).
3. What is your position with AKC? How long have you worked for AKC? I'm a Senior Conformation Judging Coordinator. I started at AKC June 2003 on a temp assignment, and when my assignment was finished, a permanent position opened and I applied... and 12 years later I thank GOD that I'm still here, enjoying what I do.
4. Do you own any dogs? What breed? Names? Ages? I don't own any dogs. (Not yet)
5. What hobbies or interests do you have outside of AKC? Some of my interests are attending church, where I'm a greeter; shopping, traveling, exercising, dancing, action movies, and listening to some smooth contemporary Jazz.
6. One or two "fun facts" about yourself. I don't meet any strangers... I love smiling... and I LOVE me!

## AKC Hires **Leslie Fetzer** as Education Project Manager

The Judging Operations Department welcomed **Leslie Fetzer** as its newest member to the AKC family on November 2, 2015. Leslie joins the AKC as the Education Project Manager and will be spearheading the judge's online education platform initiative working out of the Judges Education Department in the Raleigh office.

Leslie comes to the AKC with a distinguished career in education and distance learning being the recipient of accolades including the National Online Teacher of the Year (2012) and North Carolina's Virtual Public School Teacher of the Year (2011). Leslie's experience includes classroom and online instruction as well as being a consultant and course developer for Lenoir-Rhyne University and the North Carolina Virtual Public

School Professional Learning Coordinator. Leslie has also served on the Governor's Teacher Advisory Committee, the North Carolina e-learning Commission, as a consultant for the United States Department of Education Office of Special Programs and on the RFP committee for the state-wide Learning Management System.



We are very fortunate that Leslie has brought her extensive background to her new position with the AKC. Her experience and accomplishments in the education and distance learning fields are sure to be an asset to the AKC.



# The Doberman Pinscher Club of America

The Judges Education Committee had an idea to help judges hone their skills before they judge our breed. We wanted to produce a short video on how to judge our breed, highlighting the important points in our standard that define Doberman type.

To start with, we invited the 2014 "Top 20" Dobermans to participate in the taping at last year's National in Topeka. We enlisted the help of DPCA member and AKC judge Joseph Smith to serve as videographer. Co-producer and AKC judge Adrian Woodfork introduced video editor Janice Davis (Doberman fancier) to me. The judges' education committee wrote the copy and selected the photos. The process took several months of finessing the content to the JEC's satisfaction. Finally, I traveled to Sacramento where the editor and I put on the finishing touches to complete the process.

We thank all who contributed their time and talent to make this project a success. Ultimately, we want all judges present and future to view this video prior to judging our breed. Hopefully, other clubs will do the same for their breed.

Faye Strauss, *DPCA JEC Chair*

Committee members: Pam DeHetre, Pat Hastings, George Marquis, Bob Vandiver  
Vicki Harris, *Executive Assistant*

## Editor's Note

The Doberman Pinscher Club of America was gracious in permitting the AKC to include a link to this video in the [Standards, Study Guides, Mentors and Breed Exams](#) page which can be found off of the Conformation Judging Resource Center. [Please click here to view the video.](#)



## Juniors Corner

Recently, there were several modifications adopted related to the judging of the Junior Showmanship classes. Those judges who are approved to judge either All-Breed Junior Showmanship or Junior Showmanship-Limited Status should ensure they remain current with the policies and procedures associated with judging these classes.

- **Effective October 7, 2015** – All clubs offering Junior Showmanship classes **MUST** offer Best Junior. Remember, competition IS NOT required to award Best Junior.
- **Effective October 7, 2015** – Clubs offering Junior Showmanship **MAY** offer a Reserve Best Junior. The Reserve Best Junior mimics the "traditional" Reserve (Reserve Winners) where 2nd place from the class where the Best Junior advanced is called back into the ring to compete for Reserve.
- **Effective October 7, 2015** – The criteria to the Master class was modified from 10 first place awards with competition to 10 Best Junior awards with competition.
- **Effective October 1, 2015** – Individual with Limited Status approval for Junior Showmanship for all breeds in a group are eligible to judge Junior Showmanship at a Group Show. Previously Junior Showmanship-Limited judges could only judge Junior Showmanship classes at independent specialties for the breeds approved to judge.

# Procedurally Correct

*In our reoccurring series covering various topics related to proper judging procedures, we will cover two more items in this issue.*

## Judging the Four-to-Six Month Puppy Competition

Since its adoption, the Four-to-Six Month Puppy Competition has become an increasingly popular addition to many all-breed and specialty shows. To judge this competition, an individual must either be an approved Conformation Judge (at least one breed) or have applied and be approved as an FSS Open Show Judge. For those who accept assignments to judge this competition, it is vital that you understand the different nuances associated with this completion vs. the regular classes.

- Judges may not judge the Four-to-Six Month Puppy Competition if it interferes or delays the judging of regular classes, Groups or Best in Show.
- The 30 days/200 mile restriction does not apply to the Four-to-Six Month Puppy competition.
- Exhibitors should open their dog's mouth for examination.
- Male puppies without 2 fully descended testicles **ARE NOT** to be disqualified or excused, but the judge's book must describe the condition and awards are to be withheld.
- Dogs with breed standard disqualifications should not be excused, but may not receive placements excluding age related disqualifications such as color (as related to age), height, teeth etc., which may receive awards in the Four-to-Six Month Puppy Competition.
- Dogs must be excused for attacking a person or other dogs.
- No dog is to be judged if it is brought into the ring bandaged, taped, glued or stitched anywhere including ears or tail. They must be excused, but may return at the judge's discretion to be judged after the tape or bandage is removed.

Overall, it is vital that all judges for these classes exercise patience and ensure a pleasant experience for the competitors. A high percentage of the competitors in the Four-to-Six Month Puppy Competition are first-timers or extreme novices. Part of the initiative of the Four-to-Six Month Puppy Competition is to attract new exhibitors to our sport. Creating a positive and mentoring atmosphere will go a long way in capturing their interest.

## Judging the Brace and Team Competition

Judging Operations will field questions periodically regarding procedures associated with judging these classes. The most common of which pertains to how to examine when the brace or team involves a table or ramp mandatory breed. The misconception appears to be that the exhibits that comprise the brace or team must be examined together, implying that they would be on the table or ramp together.

Not only is this practice impractical for many breeds, but it is extremely dangerous to not only the dogs, but to the exhibitor who may be forced to attempt to lift multiple dogs at the same time. If you judge an event where the brace or team competition is offered, please apply common sense and ask the exhibitor(s) to place one dog at a time on to the table or the ramp. As included in Chapter 3 of the [Rules Applying to Dog Shows](#):

**Section 17** – A brace is defined as two dogs of the same recognized breed or variety that are similar in appearance, performing in unison, and presented by a maximum of two handlers. Both dogs competing in brace competition must have at least one common owner.

**Section 19** – A team is defined as four dogs of the same recognized breed or variety that are similar in appearance, performing in unison, and presented by a maximum of four handlers. All dogs competing in team competition must have at least one common owner.

It is evident that there is concern in this area amongst our exhibitors and parent clubs as Judging Operations did receive a specific request from the Whippet Club of America recommending that judges examine their breed on the ground or ramp when judging the brace or team competition due to safety concerns.

# IT'S YOUR CALL

by Lee Herr, AKC Executive Field Representative

In the course of every Judge's assignment there are incidents that happen in their ring which may have more than one correct response. That response is usually contingent on the severity of the action and the Judge's interpretation of *Rules, Policy, Guidelines* and *Dealing with Misconduct*.

For example: You, as the Judge in a ring, suspect a dog in that ring has a height, which, if measured, would be taller than the Breed Standard allows for and as such would be a DQ.

You call for a Wicket to be brought to the ring and proceed to follow all **Rules** listed in Chapter 14 Section 3 *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* and **Procedures** listed in *Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges*. You adjust the legs of the wicket properly using a metal tape measure and verify the correct adjustment with the exhibitor, then ask the exhibitor to "set their dog up."

The Exhibitor sets the dog up, but you notice the front legs are extended out in front of the dog. Therefore, you instruct the handler to place the front legs in the correct position under the dog.

The Exhibitor corrects the front legs; however, you now notice the rear legs are overly extended behind the dog. Subsequently, you again instruct the Exhibitor to place the legs in the correct position.

This time you notice the legs have been placed wide apart and the Exhibitor is pulling down on the dogs head. You again instruct the Exhibitor to

set the dog up to your specifications, to no avail.

What is your response? Do you excuse the dog and mark you book "Unable to measure?" What other option do you have? (One option you DON'T HAVE is to set the legs yourself!)

In *Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges*, it specifically states: **The handler is to set the dog to the Judge's specification.** It goes on to state: **There is a presumption that dogs of measurable breeds are trained to be measured. Make only one attempt to measure a dog. Any dog you are unable to measure must be excused.**

The correct response seems obvious, right? However, if you excuse the dog because you are unable to measure, what was the reason? Was it because the dog wouldn't stand still because it was untrained, unruly or just keeps sitting down? Or was it because the Exhibitor/Handler wouldn't follow your instructions?

In *Dealing with Misconduct* Offense I Sec E #5 reads : **Failure to follow a judge's instructions...** which can result in penalties ranging from a reprimand to 3-month suspension and \$300 fine.

**You are in charge and have full authority over all persons in the ring. See Chapter 7 Sections 15 & 16 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows.**

Now... Is the correct response still obvious?

**IT'S YOUR CALL!**

## 2016 Institutes for New and Aspiring Judges

All dates have been set for the 2016 Institutes for New and Aspiring Judges. As per Board policy, all new judges are required to attend this one day seminar prior to requesting regular status in their initial breed(s), but may receive credit toward this requirement for attending a seminar up to two years prior to the submission of their initial application for judging approval.

[Click here](#) for additional information or to register for any of the 2016 Institutes. The American Kennel Club does reserve the right to cancel a seminar due to lack of sufficient enrollment. Please contact Judging Operations with any questions you may have.

- ❖ January 15, 2016 – Hamburg, NY ❖ April 23, 2016 – Bossier City, LA ❖
- ❖ June 25, 2016 – Richmond, VA ❖ August 27, 2016 – Topeka, KS ❖
- ❖ October 22, 2016 – Pleasanton, CA ❖



## German Shepherd Dog Club of America

To address confusion that may be circulating concerning the administration of the temperament test when judging German Shepherd Dogs, we are publishing the letter below from the GSDCA originally included in the [Spring 2014 issue of \*The Standard\*](#).

Please take the time to review the letter and the video demonstrating the proper procedure in conducting the **in-ring loose lead temperament test** which has been posted on the AKC website with the permission of the GSDCA. The video may be accessed via the [Judging Resource Center](#) and by clicking on the link to [Standards, Study Guides, Mentors, Breed Exams](#) where it has been posted under German Shepherd Dogs.

American Kennel Club  
Judging Operations

As Co-Chair of the Judges' Education Committee for the GSDCA, I am writing to advise of our position regarding the administration of the "loose lead temperament test" advocated by our parent club.

Strong temperament and good character as described in our standard are of paramount importance to us. A German Shepherd without good temperament is incapable of performing any of the many duties required of him. Consequently, it is imperative that specimens displaying poor temperament be severely penalized or, if necessary, excused from the ring.

In an effort to help determine temperament, our club has devised a standardized format for temperament evaluation, i.e. the "loose lead" temperament test. It is required at our National specialty and at all futurity/maturity events, and it is strongly recommended at all of our specialties. A copy of the video demonstrating this test is sent to all judges who obtain permit status in German Shepherds

We understand, however, that in an all-breed setting not all judges are comfortable with administering the test, and that all-breed shows present many challenges both in terms of venue and time constraints, and for those reasons we consider it optional, at the judges' discretion, at all breed shows. At the same time, we cannot emphasize enough that poor temperament must be severely penalized, and it is our hope that the AKC Executive Field Staff will help us impress this upon aspiring judges. I hope this is helpful to our judges and I am happy to answer any questions regarding this issue.

Best Regards,

Sheree Moses  
Co-Chair, Judges' Education, GSDCA



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**Novi, MI • Sat. Jan. 23, 2016**

*In conjunction with the Oakland County Kennel Club Show*

**Denver, CO • Sat. Feb. 13, 2016**

*In conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Cluster Show*

**Albany, OR • Fri. Feb. 26, 2016**

*In conjunction with the Covered Bridge Cluster Show*

**Louisville, KY • Sat. March 19, 2016**

*In conjunction with the Evansville Kennel Club Show*

**Vallejo, CA • Sat. March 26, 2016**

*In conjunction with the Oakland County Kennel Club Show*

**Shreveport, LA • Sun. April 24, 2016**

*In conjunction with the Shreveport Kennel Club Show*

**Pomona, CA • Sat. May 28, 2016**

*In conjunction with the San Fernando Kennel Club Show*

To view the complete listing of seminars  
and download registration forms, [CLICK HERE.](#)