



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB®

Memorandum

Subject: Order of judging breeds

Date: August 19, 2015

Clarification has been requested by Superintendents, AKC Conformation Judges and the Conformation Executive Field Staff regarding 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. Judges periodically will encounter exhibitors who ask to have their breed judged out of order to accommodate a conflict that they may have.

Judging Operations is providing the following 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:

- AKC Rules and Judging Guidelines are clear that breeds may not be judged before their scheduled time. They do not specifically prohibit a breed from being judged after its slotted time.
- Breeds **MUST** be called into the ring in the order they are scheduled. This includes breeds that may have requested to be judged later. Absent entries are to be marked accordingly. Entries present must be judged.
- If a breed is absent in its entirety, the judge may, **at his or her discretion**, judge the breed after its slotted time. It is not required that all entries be present to judge the breed later. Any portion of the previously absent breed may be judged. Judges will correct and initial the previously marked absent entries in their book.
- Every effort should be made to judge previously absent breeds within the same block, preferably at the end. Judging a the breed outside of its originally scheduled time-block may impact other exhibitors and the event as a whole by causing breeds to be judged later than expected.
- The group may be judged as scheduled once all breeds in a group have been judged in their original/posted time. Superintendents/Show Secretaries are not obligated or expected to alter the order of groups or delay the judging of a group to accommodate the judging of a breed after its slotted time.
- Under no circumstances should a previously absent breed be judged after a judge has completed their entire breed assignment and their book has been turned in.

It is permitted to judge a breed later when the ENTIRE entry had been absent. It is at **YOUR DISCRETION** whether to accommodate the exhibitors and judge the breed. We would expect that the decision to accommodate exhibitors would be based on reasonable requests as it is clear that exhibitors are responsible for the presence of their dogs in the judging ring when their classes are called to be judged.

When a judge elects to accommodate a request of this type, there can be considerable impact on the event and other exhibitors when a breed's slotted time is altered, especially when it involves multiple entries. In addition, there is no feasible way to ensure that the requesting party is speaking for all entrants when a request involves multiple entries.