



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB®

Memorandum

To: ALL JUDGES
From: JOHN WADE
Subject: JUDGES TEMPORARY REFERRAL POLICY
Date: DECEMBER 22, 2010

At its November 2010 meeting, the AKC Board passed the Judges Temporary Referral Policy. **Effective January 1, 2011**, the Judges Temporary Referral Policy will apply to all AKC judges, including Companion Events, Conformation, and Performance Events. In conjunction with the policy, all judges' applications effective January 1, 2011, will include additional certification language as listed in this announcement. Should you have any questions or concerns please contact the appropriate departments.

Judges Temporary Referral Policy

The Board reviewed a staff proposed policy to permit AKC to place a hold on an AKC approved judge's eligibility to judge or to accept assignments in abeyance on a temporary basis, pending the outcome of certain criminal charges. The AKC Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve a Judges' Temporary Referral policy, effective January 1, 2011. The new policy follows:

When an AKC-approved judge is charged by a government entity with cruelty, inhumane treatment of animals, or similar offense involving inhumane or cruel treatment of dogs, or charged by a government entity with any crime involving moral turpitude, especially as it concerns dog related activities, AKC may temporarily place the judge on referral, which would have the effect of temporarily holding the judge's approval to judge or accept assignments in abeyance. The purpose of this procedure is to prevent the judge from judging or from accepting assignments to judge while the charges are pending. If and when the charges are resolved and AKC's inquiry into the matter determines that no action will be taken by the AKC to cause a suspension of judging privileges, the temporary judging referral will be removed.

In conjunction with the policy, beginning January 1, 2011, all judges' applications will contain the following certification:

I certify that I understand and acknowledge that if I am charged with cruelty, inhumane treatment of animals, or similar offense involving inhumane or cruel treatment of dogs, or charged with any crime involving moral turpitude, especially as it concerns dog related activities, the AKC may temporarily place my judging privileges on referral while the charges are pending. Further, after receiving notification of the referral, I am prevented from judging or from accepting assignments to judge. When the charges are resolved and AKC's inquiry into the matter determines that no action will be taken by the AKC to cause a suspension of my judging privileges, the temporary judging referral will be removed.