



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

The Standard

THE AKC NEWSLETTER FOR CONFORMATION JUDGES

Judging Operations Department
8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100
Raleigh, NC 27617-3390
(919) 816-3593
judgingops@akc.org

Summer 2009
Volume 10, Number 42

SUMMER 2009 COMMENTS JOHN WADE, DIRECTOR OF JUDGING OPERATIONS

In my new role as the Director of Judging Operations for the American Kennel Club, I interact with a diverse group of individuals that includes not only judges, but exhibitors and their concerns. The volume of complaints about judges is alarming. The vast majority of these complaints are based on rudeness, impatience, indifference and a disregard for the exhibitor. **Frankly, these alleged actions by members of the AKC judging community are distressing!** Can we not recognize that discourteous behavior only serves to disenchant and drive away future exhibitors? On top of that, these individuals are paying for your unbiased opinion. Place yourself in the exhibitors' shoes, and think about how you would feel. Would it not be an unpleasant

experience and something to avoid? Why is it not easier to treat people the way we want to be treated? Think about that the next time you're judging and try a different approach.

Wickets continue to be an issue, so in this newsletter we have several articles that we hope you will find useful. As always our Executive Field Representatives are available to help you with questions.

As I visit shows around the country I've started to hold informal question and answer sessions with the judging community. Our website has [a list of these sessions](#) and judges in the surrounding area are notified by email of the date, location and time. Attendance is of course voluntary.

REVISION TO THE AKITA STANDARD

APPROVED MAY 12, 2009
EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2009



General Appearance

Large, powerful, alert, with much substance and heavy bone. The broad head, forming a blunt triangle, with deep muzzle, small eyes and erect ears carried forward in line with back of neck, is characteristic of the breed. The large, curled tail, balancing the broad head, is also characteristic of the breed.

Head

Massive but in balance with body; free of wrinkle when at ease. Skull flat between ears and broad; jaws broad and powerful with minimal dewlap. Head forms a blunt triangle when viewed from above. *Fault*--Narrow or snipey head. *Muzzle*--Broad and full. Distance from nose to stop is to distance from stop to occiput as 2 is to 3. *Stop*--Well defined, but not too abrupt. A shallow furrow extends well up forehead. *Nose*--Broad and black. Black noses on white Akitas preferred, but a lighter colored nose with or without shading of black or gray tone is acceptable. *Disqualification*--partial or total lack of pigmentation on the nose surface. *Ears*--The ears of

continued on page 14

2010 JUDGES DIRECTORY

The deadline to make any changes for the 2010 Judges Directory will be **October 15, 2009**. Therefore, please review your information in the **Searchable Judges Directory**, to review your judging record. If you need to make any changes or corrections, please submit the **Change of Contact Information form**, located under downloadable forms. Again, deadline is October 15, 2009, this will be the last notice you will receive concerning the 2010 Judges Directory. The price is \$20 and will be available by December 21, 2009.

JUDGING THE COCKER SPANIEL WITH A NATURAL TAIL

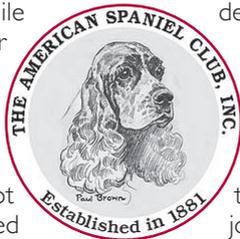
From the American Spaniel Club, Inc. (ASC)
(Adopted by the Board of Directors on July 9, 2008)

The Cocker Spaniel is a docked, hunting breed. The characteristic incessant, merry action of the tail while working in thick, dense cover which is sometimes deeper than the dog is tall, necessitates docking to prevent injury.

The ASC continues to support docked tails as an important characteristic required by the breed's function as a hunting dog. Therefore, the ASC does not intend to change the breed standard as regards docked tails. But, in accordance with A.K.C. rules (Chapter 7, Section 15), a judge may either choose to excuse a Cocker Spaniel with a natural tail as being inconsistent with the standard, or judge the

dog, considering the tail to be a fault. The ASC will support your decision to excuse, as well as judge, an undocked dog.

Should you choose to keep a natural tailed Cocker Spaniel in the ring, it is expected that you would prioritize your judging by virtues and factor in faults lastly. The natural tail is thick at the root (consistent with the required generous amount of bone), tapering to the end, and ideally not reaching below the hock joint. As the Cocker Spaniel has always been and should continue to be a docked breed, determine the tail carriage of an undocked tail by observing the first quarter to third of the tail as the dog is being moved.



REVISION TO THE POLISH LOWLAND SHEEPDOG STANDARD

APPROVED MAY 12, 2009
EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2009



General Appearance

Medium-sized, compact, strong and muscular with a long, thick coat and hanging hair that covers the eyes. He is shaggy and natural in appearance with a docked or natural bobbed tail. His herding and working ability is attributed to an intense desire to please and compatible nature. He is lively but self-controlled, clever and perceptive. The breed is well known for an excellent memory and the ability to work independent of his master.

Size, Proportion, Substance

Well balanced due to a strong skeleton. Height at the withers for an adult dog is 18 - 20 inches and 17 - 19 inches for a bitch. It is not desirable to diminish the size below the Standard for this multi-purpose

working breed. The silhouette is rectangular due to the abundance of coat on the chest and rear. The height to length ratio is 9:10 making the dog off square. Height is measured from withers to ground and length is measured from point of shoulder to point of buttocks.

Head and Skull

The medium-sized head is in proportion to the body. The profuse hair on the forehead, cheeks and chin make the head look bigger than it actually is. **Expression** is lively with a penetrating gaze. **Eyes** are of medium size, oval and brown in color. It is natural in a dog with chocolate pigment to have a lighter eye. Eye rims are as dark as possible within the coat color.

Disqualification: blue or yellow (bird-of-prey) eyes.

Ears are heart-shaped, drop and set moderately high. They are medium size in proportion to the head and are covered with long hair which naturally follows the shape of the ear. **Skull** is moderately broad and slightly domed. The forehead furrow and occiput are palpable. The stop has a pronounced indentation but never as pronounced as a round-skull breed.

The ratio of muzzle to skull is 1:1. A little shorter muzzle is

acceptable. The topline of the muzzle is straight and parallel to the skull. The muzzle is well filled all the way to the end.

Teeth: Strong white teeth meet in a scissors or level bite. The jaws are strong.

Disqualification: overshot or undershot bite.

Nose should be large and black or brown, depending on the coat color. A pink nose or a nose partially lacking pigment should be penalized.

Neck, Topline, Body

Neck, of medium length, is muscular and strong. It is broad without dewlap and carried not more than 45 degrees to the ground when moving. Profuse hair and a large head optically make the neck look shorter than it actually is.

The *back* should be neither too long nor too short for proper balance and movement. Withers are well pronounced and broad. The *chest* is deep, of medium width, with forechest well-defined. Depth of chest is to the elbow, approximately 50% of the height of the dog. The ribs are well sprung, neither barrel chested nor slab-sided.

The **topline** is level. The loin is well muscled and broad giving the impression of being short. The *croup* is slightly cut but only to a small degree. The belly is slightly drawn up.

Tail is short, set low and no longer than two vertebrae. Tails are naturally short or docked.

Severe Fault: Tail that changes the shape and appearance of the silhouette **must** be penalized so severely as to eliminate the dog from competition.

Forequarters

The shoulders are heavily muscled and well laid back. The legs are straight and vertical with heavy bone. The pasterns are slightly slanting in relation to the forearm and flexible without weakness. The feet are oval and tight with the front feet larger than the rear feet. Toes are arched.

Hindquarters

Large, heavily boned, and well muscled with well bent stifles. In normal stance, the bones below the hocks are perpendicular to the ground and parallel to each other when viewed from the rear. The hind feet fall just behind a perpendicular line from the point of buttocks to the ground when viewed from the side. Feet are oval with tight, arched toes. Pads are hard. Nails are preferably dark.

Coat

continued on page 15

AKC MOURNS THE LOSS OF MICHAEL SAUVE

1940-2009



Michael Sauve
AKC Executive Field
Representative

AKC Executive Field Representative Michael Sauve, who bred generations of Best in Show Pembroke Welsh Corgis, died of an apparent heart attack at his home in Orlando, Florida on June 23, 2009. He was 69 years old.

Sauve held positions with the AKC as a former Assistant Vice President of Events and his current position as Executive Field Representative covering shows

in Florida and the southeastern United States. He was approved to judge the Toy Group and most of the Herding Group. In addition, Sauve held the position as President of the Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America until accepting his position with the AKC.

"In 23 years of service with the AKC, Michael set the template for all Field Staff to follow and was widely respected for his professionalism and sense of fairness by all who knew him. Michael will be missed and thought of often by all his friends in the sport of purebred dogs", stated Darrell Hayes, Vice President of Dog Show Judges.

THE APPLICATION CYCLE

By PETER GAETA

Some time before I left my position with AKC I read a post forwarded from one of the judges' lists wherein the author expressed his/her bewilderment with regard to getting on the list of judges whom AKC "Fast-tracked." As an AKC Field Representative and later as the Director of Judging Operations, I heard many interesting, and I daresay entertaining, rumors and theories represented as absolute fact, history if you will, but few were as entertaining as this one, (Save the notion that "Splitting points" was an AKC policy). Like so many others, the notion that a "Fast-track" list existed had to be the rationalization of someone's frustrated ambition or unreasonable jealousy. The idea is a fantasy. Both the judging approval policy and the process by which it is implemented render it impossible that such a list could be created and maintained.

Obviously the concern here is the maximum number of breeds a judge may be approved for on an application; the quality of the preparation is a whole other matter. The maximum number of breeds which can be applied for on each application is spelled out in the approval policy. On the initial application a prospective judge may apply for up to a Group or its equivalent. He or she may be approved to judge all breeds for which all requirements are met and interviews passed. On each subsequent application an approved judge may apply for the number of breeds for which he or she is approved ("One for One Policy") up to a maximum of 14. Therein lies the basis for limitation, experience, and thus it is partially self-imposed.

The rationale for further limiting breeds on additional applications should be obvious. Requirements for additional breeds are far more lenient than for initial breeds. Ponder how much easier it is to meet requirements for additional breeds than it is for initial breeds.

If the requirements for additional breeds are met, an application is bundled with all observation, evaluation and interview reports and distributed to the Staff Committee for review prior to the monthly Staff Committee meeting. This committee is chaired by

the Vice President of Dog Show Judges and is further composed of the COO, the Executive Secretary and the Director of Project Administration. All are deep-rooted and committed dog people, and only one comes from the Dog Show Judges Department; they represent the only votes that determine the disposition of each application. The Director of Judging Operations attends the meeting and advocates for each application. That is to say he addresses any questions regarding judges' preparation, interviews and reports. Pertinent input from the Executive Field Staff is limited to reports written on the day of observed and evaluated assignments and interviews. All are signed by and copied to the judge. The net result is that all decisions are made on the basis of information that the judge applicant has, and each vote is arrived at entirely independent of other committee members' votes.

The committee is reasonable, conservative and extremely consistent. Agreement is generally expressed on the first vote. If there is a difference of opinion it is generally for a breed or two. Consensus is easily arrived at and most often to the benefit of the judge.

The number of additional breeds a judge is approved for is ultimately a factor of the quality of his or her performances as reflected on evaluations. To get more than eight or nine breeds on an application a judge must have demonstrated exceptional capabilities ("Exceeds" or "Strong" ratings) on several assignments from two or three different Executive Field Representatives without struggling ("Marginal" or "Does Not Meet" ratings) in the immediately prior application cycle. If a judge struggled in the previous cycle, besides having repeated provisional assignments, he or she should expect to be approved for fewer than eight breeds.

It is important to note that there are no secrets anywhere in this policy or process. If an applicant meets all of the requirements for breeds and passes the interviews, he or she will likely be approved for the breeds subject to the numerical limitation specified in the

continued on page 7

2009 JUDGES' BREED STUDY GROUPS AND SEMINARS

★ Denotes parent club sanctioned presenters

SPORTING

CO Greeley - August 14, 2009

★ "The Brittany"

Sponsored by the American Brittany Club;
Contact Diana Kubitz; (269) 962-2363;
renegade@voyager.net

CO Greeley - August 16, 2009

★ "Sporting Breeds Seminars"

Sponsored by the Colorado Judges
Workshop; Contact Pat Healy;
(303) 637-9947; ryzingstar@aol.com

CA Santa Rosa - August 22, 2009

"8th International English Springer Spaniel Symposium", M. Merchant, B. Jackson, Dr. Hovila & C. Spring

Sponsored by the International English
Spaniel Symposium Committee;
Contact David Swenk; 4160 LaPlante Rd.;
Monclova, OH 43542; (419) 861-3819;
david@iessc.org; www.iessc.org

MD Frederick - August 25, 2009

★ "The Vizsla", Britt Jung

Sponsored by the Mason-Dixon Dog
Judges Association;
Contact Al Ferruggiaro; (301) 421-1930;
alf198@yahoo.com

VA Manassas - August 30, 2009

★ "The Golden Retriever",

Michael Faulkner

Sponsored by the Potomac Valley Golden
Retriever Club; Contact Laurie Domaux;
(703) 250-4835; oahunorth@aol.com

MI Metamora - September 19, 2009

★ "The Irish Red & White Setter",

Carol Jean Nelson & Betty Nelson

Sponsored by the Irish Red & White Setter
Association in conjunction with the National
Specialty; Contact Leona (Lee) Robinson
397 Valley Rd; Mason, NH 03048;
(603) 878-1923; Robilee6@earthlink.net

GA Atlanta - September 19-20, 2009

★ "Sporting Breeds Seminars"

Sponsored by the Judges Association of
Georgia; Contact Meghan Bassel;
481 Waddell Road; Bremen, GA 30110;
(770) 646-6566; welshspringers@earthlink.net

GA Atlanta - September 20, 2009

★ "The Field Spaniel", Nancy Clendenen

Sponsored by the Judges Association of
Georgia; Contact; Meghan Bassel;
481 Waddell Rd, Bremen, GA 30110
(770) 646-6566;
welshspringers@earthlink.net

MD Frederick - September 22, 2009

★ "The Flat-Coated Retriever",

Dawn Buttton

Sponsored by the Mason-Dixon Dog
Judges Association;
Contact Al Ferruggiaro; (301) 421-1930;
alf198@yahoo.com

MO Eureka - September 24, 2009

★ "The Pointer"

Sponsored by the American Pointer Club in
conjunction with the National Specialty;
Contact Marjorie Martorella;
marjetta@optonline.net

MN Minneapolis - October 1, 2009

★ "The English Setter"

Sponsored by the English Setter
Association of America in conjunction with
the National Specialty; Contact
Joan Savage; 37641 NW Hahn Rd; Banks,
OR 97106; (503) 647-2008;
robertsavage5@msn.com; www.esaa.com

IL Bloomington - October 7, 2009

★ "Why, What is Efficient in the Field is Correct in the Ring"

Sponsored by the Labrador Retriever Club
in conjunction with the National Specialty;
Contact Mary Fezell; 1221 Hidden Cove
Ct; Grandbury, TX 76049; (817) 279-6048;
wyndcallab@mindspring.com

MD Frederick - October 8, 2009

★ "The Sussex Spaniel",

Sponsored by the Sussex Spaniel Club
of America Contact: Marcia Deugan;
(239) 947-2426; ziyahahreg@aol.com

TX Huntsville - October 15, 2009

★ "The Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever", Peggy Park & Judges Ed Committee

Sponsored by the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling
Retriever Club, USA in conjunction with the
National Specialty; Contact Peggy Park;
5104 N. Hickory Rd; Muncie, IN 47303;
(765) 288-7960; jpparklake@att.net

OK Enid - October 27, 2009

★ "The Golden Retriever"

Sponsored by the Golden Retriever Club of
America in conjunction with the National
Specialty; Contact Ainslie Mills;
(604) 882-0820; oriana@telus.net

LA Lafayette - November 13-14, 2009

★ "The Irish Setter", Lorraine Bisso

Sponsored by the Irish Setter Club of
America; Contact Lorraine Bisso;
(504) 833-1780; regel@bellsouth.net

AR Ft. Smith - November 27, 2009

★ "The Brittany"

Sponsored by the American Brittany Club;
Contact Diana Kubitz; (269) 962-2363;
renegade@voyager.net

HOUND

CO Greeley - August 15, 2009

★ "Hound Breed Seminars"

Sponsored by the Colorado Judges
Workshop; Contact Pat Healy;
(303) 637-9947; ryzingstar@aol.com

OR Eugene - September 3, 2009

"The Black and Tan Coonhound", Cathy Corbett

Sponsored by the The Emerald Classic
Cluster; Contact Barbara Young;
2610 Quince St; Eugene, OR 97404

OR Eugene - September 5, 2009

"The Rhodesian Ridgeback"

Sponsored by the Emerald Classic
Cluster; Contact Barbara Young;
2610 Quince St.; Eugene, OR 97404

OR Eugene - September 5, 2009

"The Whippet"

Sponsored by the Emerald Classic
Cluster; Contact Barbaa Young;
2610 Quince St.; Eugene, OR 97404

KY Lexington - September 6, 2009

★ "The Basenji", Marianne Klinkowski

Sponsored by The Basenji Club of America
in conjunction with the National Specialty;
Contact Marianne Klinkowski;
(408) 446-0604; naharin@comcast.net

MA Falmouth - September 12, 2009

★ "The Hunt for the Perfect Otterhound", Louise DeShon

Sponsored by the Otterhound Club of
America in conjunction with the National
Specialty; Contact Arlyne Smith;
293 Lynn Lane; Chicago Heights, IL
60411; (708) 756-7405;
arlynebearsden@aol.com;
www.otterhound.org

OH Mason - September 30, 2009

★ "The Bloodhound", Camille McArdle,

DVM Sponsored by the American
Bloodhound Club in conjunction with the
National Specialty; Contact Bryan Flessner;
(217) 202-1944;
Bryan.Flessner@gmail.com;
www.abcnational2009.com

MD Frederick - October 23-24, 2009

★ "The Dachshund"

Sponsored by the Dachshund Club of
America in conjunction with the National
Specialty; Contact Lisa Warren;
PO Box 923; Fogelsville, PA 18051;
(610) 285-6425;
elysiumdcox@aol.com

2008/2009 JUDGES' BREED STUDY GROUPS AND SEMINARS

NC Raleigh - October 31, 2009

★ "The Beagle", Ann Roth

Sponsored by the Triangle Area Judges Education Group; Contact Cathy Rubens; 971 Luther Rd.; Apex, NC 27523; (919) 362-4738; cathy@silverhillrottweilers.com

NC Apex - November 4, 2009

"The Bluetick Coonhound", Steve Fielder

Sponsored by the Triangle Area Judges Education Group; Contact Cathy Rubens; (919) 362-4738; cathy@silverhillrottweilers.com

WORKING

IA Amana - August 28, 2009

★ "The Boxer", Sandy Orr

Sponsored by the Tri City Kennel Club; Contact Sandra King; 6708 92 Ave. W; Talyor Ridge, IL 61284; (309) 787-6363; sandyking@mchsi.com

OR Eugene - September 5, 2009

★ "The Black Russian Terrier"

Sponsored by the Black Russian Terrier Club of America in conjunction with the National Specialty; Chris Wellman; 14650 Old Pueblo Rd., Fountain, CO 80817

IL Whittington - September 16-17, 2009

★ "The Portuguese Water Dog", PWDCA Judge's Education Committee

Sponsored by the Portuguese Water Dog Club of America in conjunction with the National Specialty; Contact Dr. Elizabeth Trainor; (508) 987-2110; eftrainor@verizon.net

CA Roseville - September 30, 2009

★ "Giant Schnauzer Judges Education Seminar with Hands-On Evaluation"

Sponsored by the Giant Schnauzer Club of America in conjunction with the National Specialty; Contact Steve Fox; (502) 558-4730; robertfox@ge.com; www.giantschnauzerclubofamerica.com

TN Chattanooga - October 2-3, 2009

★ "The Siberian Husky"

Sponsored by the Siberian Husky Club of America; Contact Phyllis Brayton; 1508 Brayton Ave.; Escalon CA 95320; (209) 838-2251

NJ Augusta - October 9, 2009

★ "The Greater Swiss Mountain Dog", Catherine D. Cooper

Sponsored by the Monticello Kennel Club; Contact Ms. Terry DePietro; 659 Casino Dr.; Howell, NJ 07731; (732) 462-6816; Cell; (732) 616-8866; jsunfarmskennel@gmail.com

NJ Augusta - October 10, 2009

★ "The Rottweiler", Grace McGlynn

Sponsored by the Ramapo Kennel Club; Contact Ms. Terry DePietro; 659 Casino Dr.; Howell, NJ 07731; (732) 462-6816; Cell; (732) 616-8866; jsunfarmskennel@gmail.com

OR Hood River - October 10, 2009

★ "The Saint Bernard", Beverly Nosiglia

Sponsored by the St. Bernard Club of America in conjunction with the National Specialty; Contact Beverly Nosiglia; 4804 Rte. 96A; Romulus, NY 14541; beric2008@gmail.com

SD Rapid City - October 14, 2009

★ "The Komondor", John Landis,

Anna Quigley & Nancy Liebes
Sponsored by the Komondor Club of America in conjunction with the National Specialty; Contact John Landis 2451 Wassergass Rd; Hellertown, PA 18055 (610) 838-9983; A026@enter.net

TN Chattanooga - October 23-24, 2009

★ "The Great Dane"

Sponsored by the Great Dane Club of America in conjunction with the National Specialty; Contact Jane Treiber; jetreiber@centurytel.net

LA Lafayette - October 28-29, 2009

★ "Understanding Bullmastiff Breed Type", Helene Nietsch & Michele McGovern

Sponsored by the American Bullmastiff Association in conjunction with the National Specialty; Contact Helene Nietsch; (203) 426-8194; helene@banstockbullmastiffs.com

PA Gettysburg - October 30, 2009

★ "The Alaskan Malamute",

Rosemary W. Leist

Sponsored by the Alaskan Malamute Club of America in conjunction with the National Specialty; Contact Rosemary Leist; PO Box 1633; Clackamas, OR 97015; (503) 824-6257; tansa@colton.com

CA Napa - November 13, 2009

★ "ASDCA's Breed Standard of Excellence Judge's Seminar and Ringside Mentoring", Laura Edstrom-Smith

Sponsored by the Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America in conjunction with the National Specialty; Contact Genia Kyres; 5078 Argonne Ct; San Diego, CA 92117; (858) 274-8628; aegean@san.rr.com

TERRIER

WA Seattle - August 15, 2009

★ "The Smooth and Wire Fox Terriers",

Amy Rutherford and Bill McFadden
Sponsored by the American Fox Terrier Club in conjunction with the National Specialty; Contact Janie Bousek; (715) 799-4360; wbosek@frontiernet.net

CA Fairfield - September 5, 2009

★ "The Scottish Terrier", Barbara Casey

Sponsored by the Scottish Terrier Club of America and the San Francisco Bay Scottish Terrier Club; Contact; Sue & Dennis Sweeney (707) 745-8699; abasween@comcast.net

FL Brooksville - November 4, 2009

★ "Multiple Terrier Breed Seminars",

Sponsored by the Conformation Judges of Florida Association; Contact; Linda Tilka; 14091 N. Bayshore Dr; Maderia Beach, FL 33708; lindaalka@tampabay.rr.com

TOY

NJ Augusta - October 9, 2009

★ "The Schipperke", Krista Nova

Sponsored by the Palisades Kennel Club; Contact Ms. Terry DePietro; 659 Casino Dr.; Howell, NJ 07731; (732) 462-6816; Cell; (732) 616-8866; jsunfarmskennel@gmail.com

MO Kansas City - November 23, 2009

★ "The Bulldog",

Sponsored by the Bulldog Club of America in conjunction with the National Specialty; Contact Brenda Newcomb; (760) 325-3192; bulldogsbrenda@aol.com

NON-SPORTING

IA Amana - August 28, 2009

★ "The Schipperke", Amy Grossman

Sponsored by the Tri City Kennel Club; Contact Sandra King; 6708 92 Ave W; Taylor Ridge, IL 61284; (309) 787-6363; sandyking@mchsi.com

FL Orlando - September 4, 2009

★ "The Bulldog", Samuel Steding

Sponsored by the Bulldog Club of America; Contact Sam Steding; (863) 647-5095; samstedbull@aol.com

MA Boxborough - October 14-15, 2009

★ "The French Bulldog",

Virginia Rowland

Sponsored by the French Bull Dog Club of America in conjunction with the National Specialty; Contact Virginia Rowland; PO Box 300; Templeton, MA 01468; (978) 424-1044; blackslate@aol.com; www.frenchbulldogclub.org/

2009 JUDGES' BREED STUDY GROUPS AND SEMINARS

NC Concord - November 12, 2009

★ **"The Finnish Spitz", Cindy Stansell**
Sponsored by the Finnish Spitz Club of America in conjunction with the National Specialty; Contact Cindy Stansell; (919) 606-6569; rocyn@embarqmail.com

HERDING

KS Topeka – August 13, 2009

★ **"The Swedish Vallhund", Cheryl Rolfe**
Sponsored by the Swedish Vallhund Club of America in conjunction with the National Specialty; Contact Cheryl Rolfe; 1134 SW Bedenbugh Ln, Lake City, FL 32025(386) 752-0606; cbrolfe@aol.com

CA Grass Valley - August 28, 2009

★ **"The Border Collie",**
Sponsored by the Border Collie Club of Northern California; Contact Linn Klingel or Jamie Jackson; (651) 306-9091; linnkling@aol.com or shannarabc@gmail.com

IA Amana - August 28, 2009

★ **"The Belgian Breeds Comparison", Linda Friedow**
Sponsored by the Tri City Kennel Club; Contact Sandra King; 6708 92 Ave W.; Taylor Ridge, IL 61284; (309) 787-6363; sandyking@mchsi.com

IA Amana - August 28, 2009

★ **"The Bouviers des Flandres", Nancy Eilks**
Sponsored by the Tri City Kennel Club; Contact Sandra King; 6708 92 Ave W.; Taylor Ridge, IL 61284; (309) 787-6363; sandyking@mchsi.com

NH Durham - September 19, 2009

★ **"The Shetland Sheepdog ~ Then and Now", Tim Coen**
Sponsored by the Granite State Shetland Sheepdog Club of SENH; Contact; Brenda Abrahamson, 73 Sweet Hill Rd, Plaistow, NH 03865; (603) 392-3693; brandyminist@comcast.net

KY Fort Mitchell - October 2, 2009

★ **"The Pembroke Welsh Corgi Breed Presentation and Hands-On Experience", Sandra Wolfskill**
Sponsored by the Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America in conjunction with the National Specialty; Contact Marilyn VanVleit; 6352 Liberty Road S; Salem, OR 97306; (503) 581-5144; mvanvleit@farmersagent.com; www.pwcca.org (under Judges tab)

WI Jefferson - October 9, 2009

★ **"The Border Collie"**
Sponsored by the Border Collie Society of America in conjunction with the National Specialty; Contact Linn Klingel; (651) 306-9091; linnkling@aol.com

MN Minneapolis - October 9-10, 2009

★ **"The Bearded Collie", Chris Walkowicz**
Sponsored by the Bearded Collie Club of America; Contact Chris Walkowicz; 1396 1265th St.; Sherrard, IL 61281; (309) 754-8723; walkoway.dogbooks@mchsi.com

TX Belton - October 13, 2009

★ **"Hands-On Judges Seminar", Joyce Rowland**
Sponsored by the Australian Cattle Dog Club of America in conjunction with the National Specialty; Contact Pat Leach; (352) 568-1509; sandhill@aol.com

OH Springfield - October 15, 2009

★ **"The German Shepherd Dog - A Judge's Education Seminar", Dave Rinke, Helen Gleason, Jim York**
Sponsored by the German Shepherd Dog Club of America in conjunction with the National Specialty; Contact Diane Mehra; (651) 439-0215; dmehra@aol.com

VT Essex Junction - October 15, 2009

★ **"The Bouviers des Flandres", Nancy Eilks**
Sponsored by the American Bouviers des Flandres Club in conjunction with the National Specialty; Contact Nancy Eilks; (920) 650-2299; eilks@gdinet.com; www.bouvier.org

CA Dixon - October 22, 2009

★ **"The Old English Sheepdog", Mary Anne Brocius & Woody Nelson**
Sponsored by the Old English Sheepdog Club of America in conjunction with the National Specialty; Contact Mary Anne Brocius; (248) 685-8428; qubicoes@earthlink.net

TX Plano - October 30, 2009

★ **"The Briard"**
Sponsored by the Briard Club of America in conjunction with the National Specialty; Contact Meg Weitz; (336) 510-7650; mweitz@aol.com

MISCELLANEOUS

OH Wauseon - October 3, 2009

"The Icelandic Sheepdog", Icelandic Sheepdog Association of America
Sponsored by the Fulton County Ohio Kennel Club; Contact Donna R. McDermott; (800) 970-4752; isaabod@gmail.com

MULTIPLE BREED

CA San Rafael – September 12, 2009

"Basset Hound & Petits Bassets Griffons Vendeen Comparison, Judges Seminar and Workshop", Dr. Claudia Orlandi & Claire "Kitty" Steidel
Sponsored by the Sir Francis Drake KC; Contact Catherine Elin; (707) 794-7972; barristersbasset@comcast.net

GA Atlanta – September 19, 2009

"Four Brown Dogs; a Comparison of the American Water Spaniel, Boykin Spaniel, Field Spaniel, and Sussex Spaniel"
Sponsored by the Judges Association of Georgia; Contact Meghan Bassel 481 Waddell Rd; Bremen, GA 30110; (770) 646-6566; welshspringers@earthlink.net

TX Georgetown – December 4, 2009

"The Sighthounds, Including Italian Greyhounds" Sponsored by the Dog Judges Association of Texas and the Afghan Hound Club of Greater Houston
Contact Dr. Judith A. Newton; (281) 380-2136; solari@prodigy.net

OR Portland – January 22, 2010

"Focus on Northern Dogs, Various Breed Seminars" Sponsored by the Oregon Dog Judges, Contact Christie Smith or Rosemary Leist; (503) 639-8403; tansa@colton.com or xtiesmith@comcast.net www.oregondogjudges.org

NY New York – February 12 – 13, 2010

"Multi-Breed Seminars"
Sponsored by the Dog Judges Association of America; Contact Anne Bolus or Sam Houston McDonald; (423) 236-4197; dabolus@aol.com or samisiw@yahoo.com

AKC INSTITUTES

CO Greeley – September 5, 2009

"AKC Institute for Aspiring and Newly Approved Judges" Sponsored by the American Kennel Club; Contact Kathy Caruana; (919) 816-3862; kac1@akc.org; www.akc.org

2009 JUDGES' BREED STUDY GROUPS AND SEMINARS

IN Fort Wayne – October 31, 2009

“AKC Institute for Aspiring and Newly Approved Judges” Sponsored by the American Kennel Club; Contact Kathy Caruana; (919) 816-3862; kac1@akc.org; www.akc.org

RI Providence – December 3-6, 2009

“AKC Advanced Sporting Institute” Sponsored by the American Kennel Club; Contact Kathy Caruana; (919) 816-3862; kac1@akc.org; www.akc.org

OR Portland – January 23, 2010

“AKC Institute for Aspiring and Newly Approved Judges” Sponsored by the American Kennel Club; Contact Kathy Caruana; (919) 816-3862; kac1@akc.org; www.akc.org

TX Fort Worth – March 27, 2010

“AKC Institute for Aspiring and Newly Approved Judges” Sponsored by the American Kennel Club; Contact Kathy Caruana; (919) 816-3862; kac1@akc.org; www.akc.org

IL Dekalb – April 10, 2010

“AKC Institute for Aspiring and Newly Approved Judges” Sponsored by the American Kennel Club; Contact Kathy Caruana; (919) 816-3862; kac1@akc.org; www.akc.org

QUESTION & ANSWER SESSIONS FOR JUDGES

FL Ocala – November 14, 2009

“AKC Question & Answer Session for Judges”, John Wade; Sponsored by the American Kennel Club; Contact: Kathy Caruana; (919) 816-3862; kac1@akc.org; www.akc.org

OR Portland – January 22, 2010

“AKC Question & Answer Session for Judges”, John Wade; Sponsored by the American Kennel Club; Contact: Kathy Caruana; (919) 816-3862; kac1@akc.org; www.akc.org



When I'm ready.....

www.artbymariemason.com

Visit our website for a complete list of seminars

THE APPLICATION CYCLE

By PETER GAETA

continued on page 3

policy and the quality of evaluated performances. In short, all limitations are self imposed one way or another. They are a factor of the number of breeds a judge qualifies for on the first application or a factor determined by performance. All applications are processed the same way in accordance with the approval policy. Each gets the same consideration. There is no special list.

You would think that this is the end of it. It is not. The department is subject to periodic audit. Everything, from the application form itself to correspondence, is independently reviewed periodically

by an outside department to make sure all is in compliance with policy and good business practices. It is a time consuming and arduous but important process that culminates with an extensive report and recommendations for improvement. To date the Dog Show Judges Department has always earned glowing reports.

The policy is the policy. It is transparent, as is the process by which it is implemented. It is consistent and fair. Like playing sand lot baseball, there is an element of subjectivity to some of the calls, but we all agree to the rules when we agree to play.

AKC JUDGES PINS ARE NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH THE AKC



Your choice of 3 different styles:

- Laser Engraved with pin back
- Laser Engraved with magnet back
- Laser Engraved with pocket holder

\$20 (plus shipping and handling)

Contact Kathy Caruana kac1@ack.org or 919-816-3862 for more details

AVAILABLE
IN
2 COLORS
GOLD
OR
SILVER

downloadable form

WICKET RIGHTS & WRONGS

The Judging Operations Department continues to receive complaints from exhibitors and Executive Field Representatives concerning proper use of the wicket when measuring measurable breeds. The most frequent complaint has been the placement of the wicket on the dogs back in a location other than the highest point of the withers (highest point of shoulder) or placing the wicket on the dog multiple times. Judges that are unsure, uncomfortable or otherwise doubtful in the proper use of the wicket should seek guidance and assistance from an Executive Field Representative for a correct wicket demonstration. Don't wait until you're in the ring judging to ask for assistance as it's too late; the correct measurement technique is your responsibility.

We have also included an article on proper measuring technique written by Mary Dukas, AKC Executive Field Representative, and previously published, **“RIGHT & WRONG” things to remember.**

- A dog may only be measured one time, meaning the wicket is placed on the dog correctly/incorrectly only ONCE. Get it “RIGHT” the first time.
- You correctly set the wicket for the bottom end of the

standard and measure the dog when clearly it's the upper height limit that is the concern. You can reset the wicket as you were in error and measure the dog properly. “WRONG”, clearly the dog was already measured and “Measured In” based on the bottom end of the standard, you can “NOT” re-measure this dog, it's your error.

- A tape measure may be used in lieu of an AKC approved wicket not being available at an independent specialty show. This statement is “WRONG” as only a wicket that meets AKC requirements may be used in measuring measurable breeds and it is the responsibility of the Bench Show Committee to provide suitable equipment for determining eligibility with respect to height.

- You have placed the wicket on the dog and at the same time notice the exhibitor has pulled the dog's head down and forward. You can repeat the measurement after advising the exhibitor that you will try to measure the dog one more time and if they continue to influence the measurement they will be excused. “WRONG” to attempt a second measurement as a result of the exhibitor's action is incorrect as the dog should be excused, “Unable to Measure”.

“A BIT OF A STICKY WICKET”

- PROPER MEASURING TECHNIQUE FOR AKC JUDGES, BY MARY DUKAS, AKC EXECUTIVE FIELD REP

Recently we have seen a number of judges having some problems with correct measurement technique. If you judge measurable breeds, proper measuring technique is a fundamental skill that you must master. There is indeed a specific technique and procedure that judges must utilize when performing a measurement on a dog to be fair to the exhibitor, the dog and to assure that the measurement is true and accurate.

To measure, or not to measure....

Whether the judge chooses to measure a dog or the measurement is the result of an in ring exhibitor protest, the measurement technique itself is the same. I should point out that if a judge thinks a dog may be over or under size, it is the judge's OBLIGATION to measure the exhibit. This is a mandatory part of your job in judging to the standard of the breed for which you have been approved and entrusted to judge.

The Wicked Wicket.

Once the decision to measure an exhibit has been made, the first step in the process is to inform the exhibitor that you will be measuring their dog. Next have your ring steward call the superintendent to bring the wicket to the ring. Be sure you notify the superintendent which breed you will be measuring so that the correct size wicket is delivered. If there are multiple dogs in the class, you should continue examining the remaining exhibits while waiting for the wicket to arrive. If you are judging a large entry of a measurable breed, you may choose to request the wicket prior to the start of your assignment.

With the proper wicket in hand, call the exhibitor to your judge's table to observe you set the wicket. Lay the wicket flat on the table to set each leg to the appropriate height. You should always re-read the breed standard disqualification immediately prior to measuring so as to be absolutely certain of the height at which you will be setting the wicket and to remind yourself exactly how the standard reads. This can make a difference as to whether a dog is disqualified or not. For example, if a standard reads “over 20 inches at the

shoulder to disqualify” you will set the wicket to 20” to measure the dog. If the wicket is touching the dog's withers (highest point of shoulder) AND both legs are touching the surface on which you are measuring, the dog is EXACTLY 20” and not to be disqualified. Conversely, if the standard reads “20 inches and over to disqualify” the same dog and measurement would result in a disqualification.

Be aware that a very slight difference in wording can make a very big difference in meaning, and it is very important that you as a judge are sensitive to and aware of this nuance.

Be sure to screw each leg in tightly so the legs are firmly set. Then, with the wicket still laying flat on the table, use your metal measuring tape (which you should always carry in your briefcase – if you find that you do not have one with you [shame on you!] call for the AKC Rep, as we always carry a tape with us) to measure each leg of the wicket individually. Confirm that they are both set to the proper height. The exhibitor should be part of this process in that they watch you set and measure the wicket. Once finished, ask them to concur that the wicket is indeed set to the proper height.

Get it right and don't scare the dog!

Now that the wicket is properly set it is time to actually perform the measurement on the dog. The dog should be measured on the surface that it is typically examined, the table for breeds normally examined on the table, the ground for breeds normally examined on the ground or the ramp for those breeds which may be judged on the ramp. If you are performing a measurement on the ground on an uneven surface you must ask the superintendent to bring a board to the ring on which to stand the dog to perform the measurement. This should be requested at the same time as the wicket if there is a need for such.

Where to measure the dog is generally pretty straightforward, smaller breeds on the table and larger breeds on the ground, but what do you do in the case of a breed like the Whippet where it is

continued on page 10



FYI...CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGED?

Changing your contact information just got easier. [A Change of Contact Information form](#) is posted on the AKC website under Downloadable Forms.

How do I find Downloadable Forms? On the AKC main page go to the column on the left titled: Meet the AKC. Here you will find the link to Downloadable Forms. When on the Downloadable forms page you will find the form under Judges.

Remember, you can also access all application forms and Ringside Observation forms from this location.

NEW CLASS DOESN'T MEAN NEW EXHIBITOR

By *PATRICIA PROCTOR*

The newly created Amateur Owner Handler class was introduced to AKC events in January 2009. As I understand it, this class was put into the conformation listing of classes, in part, as an alternative and an extra incentive for exhibitors to utilize while going through the process of getting a Championship title on a dog. Just like the Bred By Exhibitor class, this Amateur class relates the exhibitor to the dog at the end of their lead. And, just like the Bred By Exhibitor class, the Amateur class does not, and I repeat DOES NOT indicate the lack of handling ability on the part of the exhibitor. In the Bred By class, the exhibitor in the ring is recognized as the owner and the breeder of the dog at the end of the lead. In the Amateur Owner class, the exhibitor in the ring is recognized as the owner of the dog who quite simply has maintained their amateur status. This should in no way shape or form indicate the diminished handling abilities that the exhibitor possesses. And, just like the Bred By Exhibitor class, we all will see highly skilled amateurs who choose to enter the Amateur Owner Handler class, out of a sense of pride for the dog at the end of their lead.

As one of the founding members of the Owner Handler Association of America, and may I say a continuing member throughout many decades to present, I am appalled to hear from exhibitors, weekend after weekend that those that are choosing to enter the Amateur Owner Handler class are being subjected to comments from judges that are demeaning, insulting, condescending and downright rude. Apparently an awful lot of judges believe that this class is for beginning exhibitors who need that "special" class so they can walk out of a ring with a ribbon. Basically, I am being told that the judges all but pat these amateurs on their heads and tell them that they are doing a fine job and with a lot more practice, maybe one day, they might have a chance. If, indeed a judge finds a new exhibitor in their ring and recognizes that exhibitor to be

blatantly new in the sport, quite frankly I still don't believe in the pat on the head. Kind words of encouragement are in order – never condescending words. That would be an insult no matter who it is directed to. I would hope that every single judge out there remembers their first dog and their first time in the ring. Kindness keeps us coming back, not patronizing words.

Just think about all of those amateur owner handlers that we have seen winning Best In Shows all of these years. Clearly, to get to that level, their handling abilities are at the same bar level as those of Professional Handlers and often times that ability surpasses many Professionals. The only difference..... money. Think about it. Why would the taking of money necessarily make an exhibitor's handling abilities better than the next guy? It's a simple as that. The Amateur Owner Handler class is being entered by exhibitors, who, at times, have decades of experience in the ring, decades of experience breeding dozens of Champions that the very same exhibitor has possibly handled to those Championships.

Please recognize the definition of this new class. To paraphrase the Rules and Regulations Book, the dogs must be 6 months of age, the dog must be handled by the registered owner; the class is restricted to exhibitors who have never been a professional handler; an AKC approved Conformation judge, employed as an assistant to a professional handler or an immediate family member or in the household of a current professional handler. So, I do ask you, where in that definition does it imply that the exhibitor is new to the sport?

As a judge, it is your responsibility to clearly know the definition of the classes that you are judging and to keep up with the continuing changes that affect those responsibilities. By not doing so, you let down the exhibitors, their dogs, yourself, the AKC and the sport.

equally acceptable and at the discretion of the judge to examine the dogs on the table, the ramp or the ground? Although this decision lies completely with the judge, many judges in this situation will ask the exhibitor if they have a preference as to where the dog is measured (typically on the ground or on the table unless the judge is using the ramp for their examination process) and will then grant that request. (As an exhibitor of this breed, I always very much appreciated being given this option). It should also be noted that this option (ground or table for measurement) should extend only to the measurement itself, wherever (table, ramp or ground) the judge has chosen to examine the entries must remain consistent throughout the entry.

Next you will ask the handler to stack the dog at the appropriate measuring location. The dog should be in a natural stance, four square, with its head in a natural position. If the handler does not stack the dog to your satisfaction, you must request that they re-stack the dog so that you, the judge, are content that the dog is standing in a normal stance where its true height can be determined. You may give the handler a couple of chances to get it right, telling them what adjustments you would like them to make, but if the handler continues to be uncooperative (either intentionally or unintentionally) or the dog becomes difficult and cannot be stacked to your satisfaction, you must excuse the dog and mark your book “excused, unable to measure”. You, the judge, ARE NOT allowed to physically assist the handler in stacking the dog or touch or hold the dog in any way during the stacking or measuring process.

Once the dog is satisfactorily stacked you will ask the exhibitor if they are ready and you will proceed with the actual measurement. Approach the dog in a normal manner appropriate for the breed. Hold the wicket in your right hand and down at your side as you approach the dog. Be very aware that most dogs will be suspicious when approached by a stranger carrying a large metal stick, so try to make your movements as smooth, efficient and natural as possible and approach the dog.

You will touch the dog at the withers (highest point of the shoulder) to make clear where your measurement point will be. This is the only place you are permitted to touch the dog during

the measurement process. DO NOT hold the dog’s muzzle or move its head up or down, DO NOT re-adjust its legs. Then you will bring the wicket forward from the rear of the dog, place it only on the highest point of the withers and leave it only long enough to determine if the dog is in or out and then remove the wicket. At all times take extreme care not to inadvertently bump the dog with the wicket’s legs. This will spook the dog and annoy the exhibitor. Additionally, do not release the wicket from your hand at any time while you are actually measuring the dog. This can result in the wicket falling on the dog who will now be really spooked and you also have an exhibitor who is REALLY, REALLY ANNOYED and will not hesitate to hunt down the AKC Rep at the show and tell them over and over again what a moron you, the judge, are.

Immediately after completing the measurement, inform the exhibitor of your decision as to whether their dog measured in or out. Realize that many exhibitors may be nervous and flustered by the experience so please be polite, clear and direct, such as either, “Today your dog measured in, please take your place back in line”, or “I’m sorry, today your dog measured out and is disqualified under the breed standard”. In the latter case please do not hesitate to advise them to seek out the AKC rep for clarification if they have questions or tell them that you will be happy to discuss it with them after judging is completed. This way the exhibitor can get any questions answered, and you can continue judging your class.

Tying up the loose ends.

Any dog that is measured must be noted in your judge’s book and also whether it measured in or out. If you measure a dog in, you should note adjacent to the dog’s number “measured – in”. Conversely if the dog measures out, you will note by the dog’s number “DQ – measured out”. Also, if the measurement is the result of an in ring protest that should be noted in your book, clarifying the armband number of the dog measured and the outcome.

As an AKC judge who adjudicates on measurable breeds, it is your responsibility to become proficient at the proper technique to measure a dog. You owe that to the breed, the exhibitors and the individual dogs. Press on and keep measuring!



MEMORY BANK

Can you define the following and give breed examples?

1. Button Ears: _____ and _____

2. Rose Ears: _____, _____ and _____

3. Rolled/Folded Ears: _____ and _____

Answers on page 13

2009 RINGSIDE OBSERVATION CLARIFICATION

A clarification of "NOTE: Only one mentoring experience per day, *per breed*. Multiple day specialties, (National/Regional), again one mentor *experience per day*."

The Judging Operations Department has not added nor changed any requirements but only more clearly defined how the number of components is determined. This does not represent any change regardless of perception.

The maximum number of components an individual attending a National/Regional Specialty may receive is a total of three, based on attendance, participation in the judge's seminar including hands-on session and with **ringside observation** as part of the experience. Regardless of the number of individuals involved in a breed clubs ringside mentoring program, it is one experience per day. Three ringside observations (on different

days) will fulfill this component.

This department's concern is the judge applicants breed knowledge attained from attending and participating in National/Regional Specialties events and appropriately recognizing that effort. In the case of all breed shows, one mentoring experience per day per breed is all that will be counted as a component.

In addition, this department fully recognizes the value of various individuals' experience as it relates to any given breed. The expectation of the judge applicant is to participate fully in continuing to enhance their canine knowledge. As always, each application is subject to review and we recognize that individual breed specific educational opportunities are not equal, thus a selection of enriching components is available.

NO SHAKE, NO RATTLE, JUST ROLL

BY DR. JOHN GANN DVM

As per the **Bulldog Standard** the gait is to be: The style and carriage are peculiar; his gait being loose-jointed, shuffling, sidewise motion, giving the characteristic "roll". The action must, however, be unrestrained, free and vigorous. From the standpoint as a veterinarian, exhibitor, breeder, judge, and spectator on numerous occasions I have observed Bulldogs that in my opinion are showing unsound movement and many times are in fact limping and still placing and winning. As judges it is our responsibility to know acceptable movement and not confuse unsound gaits as the characteristic "roll". The "roll" is a rolling motion of the body therefore one must be careful not to confuse unsound leg movement as the "roll". I have always considered the Bulldog as an athlete therefore sound movement is essential. So the next time we are passing judgment from within the ring or as spectators one should pay particular attention for good sound movement and not mistake unsound movement as the rolling gait described above.



JUDGES EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Otterhound Club of America

Breed Educational seminar

"The Hunt for the Perfect Otterhound"

now available on DVD \$5.00 for judges

Contact: Arlyne Smith; arlynebearsden@aol.com

American Chinese Crested Club

Parent-club approved PowerPoint Presentation, and CD's may be obtained upon request

Contact: Penelope C. Inan, ACCC JEC;

721 Camino Real Avenue, Palmdale, CA 93551

jatocrest@earthlink.net,

661-274-0358,

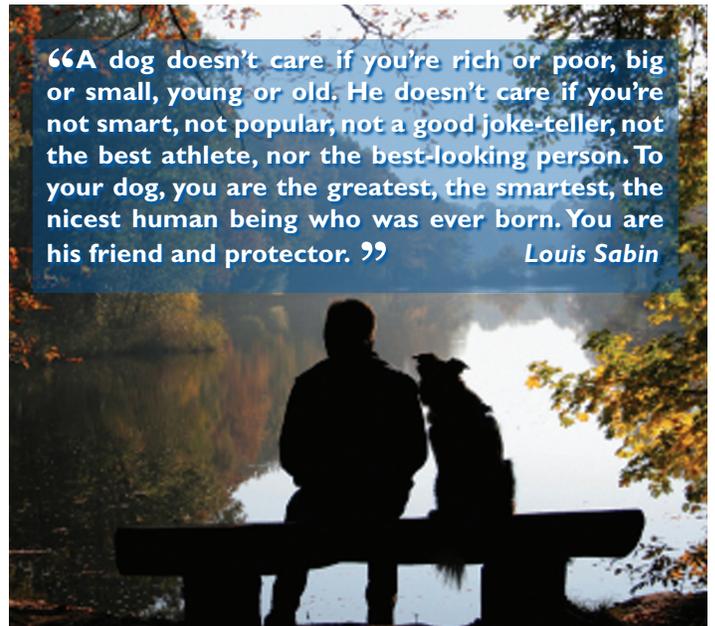
2009 LOW ENTRY BREEDS LIST —

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 with dogs present 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. The updated list effective May 12, 2009, is on page 15.

“A dog doesn't care if you're rich or poor, big or small, young or old. He doesn't care if you're not smart, not popular, not a good joke-teller, not the best athlete, nor the best-looking person. To your dog, you are the greatest, the smartest, the nicest human being who was ever born. You are his friend and protector.”

Louis Sabin





Recently, a conversation with a judge friend of mine sparked an idea. We were commenting on the wealthy resource of experienced judges we have and how greatly beneficial it would be for newer judges to have the opportunity and advantage of being able to “pick the brain” of those having so much judging experience. Our AKC Newsletter reaches the entire AKC judging community and is a natural forum for education, information and the opportunity to mentor and be mentored. Using the format of question and answer, each issue will feature a judge we invite to answer a question in the hopes that it may have educational value to our core of newly approved judges and maybe even those not so new.

With the greatest respect for those with time served wearing the badge, the column is entitled “As I See It”, and I look forward to their answers and opinions.

In withholding a placement ribbon and/or excusing for lack of merit or poor condition, what do you use as your criteria and how do you handle the situation with the exhibitor? Do you think exhibitors are entitled to know when they ask what your opinion is of the entry and the placement given?

Bob and Jane Forsyth -

Does an exhibitor have the right to know why an award was withheld or a dog was excused for lack of merit. The answer is a definite yes to both. As judges, it is part of our responsibility to educate those entering the sport. The withholding of awards and excusing for lack of merit actually work in two ways, they inform the exhibitor that their dog requires work or that it is not worth the effort to be shown. We believe it to be a teaching experience.

WITHHOLDING OF AWARDS: There are numerous reasons why this can and should be done. Obesity, extremely underweight, very poor coat condition, exceedingly dirty, etc. but over all a good specimen with a condition that can be remedied.

Always explain why the award was withheld, polite but assertive, open your assessment with virtues of the animal in question then proceed with what you consider to be the problem. Explain that it

can be solved with time and effort. Also inform them that it is not a disqualification and that they can continue to show the animal in question but it would be wise to retire from showing until the condition is under control.

EXCUSED FOR LACK OF MERIT: Is as a rule used to dismiss a dog for lack of breed type and is a bit more delicate to handle, as in most cases it is going to involve neophytes to the sport and you are informing them that in your opinion their dog is not worthy of being shown. To properly explain your decision to the exhibitor it will probably require more time and is best done during a break or after you have finished your assignment. Just be sure you have the time to properly respond to the questions they may have.

Many are truly interested in your evaluation and accept it. Others may take offense and become somewhat agitated, then we have those that have no interest in your opinion but wish to give you theirs.

After a long day or a large breed entry you may find it to be difficult to remember exactly your reasons for excusing. Ask to have the dog in question brought to you in order to jog your memory. Not surprisingly only those that are honestly looking forward to evaluation ever return.

Avoid as much embarrassment to the exhibitor as possible, talk quietly and low key. Open your assessment with virtues of the animal in question then proceed with what you consider to be a fault or faults, keeping the latter as limited as possible. Again, as in withholding, they must be informed that it is not a disqualification.

Refrain from discussing any of your placements with anyone except the owner or handler. Extradite yourself from the overly aggressive. If unable to do so, request the presence of the Superintendent or the A.K.C. Field Representative.

There will be times that you will be informed that the dog you have just withheld from or excused for lack of merit has won its class or even been awarded points. Just keep in mind you are not responsible for someone else’s folly.



MEMORY BANK

from page 10

- 1. Button Ears:** The ear flap folding forward, the tip lying close to the skull so as to cover the orifice; e.g. Fox Terrier, Irish Terrier
- 2. Rose Ears:** A small drop ear that folds over and back so as to reveal the burr; e.g. Pug, Whippet, and Bulldog
- 3. Rolled/Folded Ears:** Ears that Curl-Coated Retrievers inward along the lower edge and tip; e.g. Field Spaniel, Bloodhound



REVISION TO THE BLACK RUSSIAN TERRIER STANDARD

APPROVED MAY 12, 2009
EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2009



General Appearance

The Black Russian Terrier is a robust, large, balanced, agile and powerful dog. The Black Russian Terrier has large bone and well-developed muscles. He has great strength and endurance. The Black Russian Terrier must have a stable and reliable temperament, possessing self-assurance and courage.

Size, Proportion, Substance

Size: The height for males at maturity (over 18 months of age) is between 27" and 30" with the desired height being between 27" and 29". The height for females at maturity (over 18 months of age) is between 26" and 29" with the desired height being between 26" and 28". Any height deviation is a serious fault. Height consideration should not outweigh that of type,

proportion, movement and other functional attributes. General balance is more important than absolute size. **Proportion:** The desired height to length ratio of the Black Russian Terrier is approximately 9.5 to 10. Thus the dog is slightly longer than tall. Females may be slightly longer than males. The length is measured from point of shoulder to rear edge of the pelvis. **Substance:** The Black Russian Terrier must have large bones and well-developed musculature. Females are definitely to appear feminine but never lacking in substance. Light bone, lack of substance, and poor musculature are serious faults.

Head

The head must be in proportion to the body and give the appearance of power and strength. It is approximately equal to the length of neck and not less than 40% of the height of the dog at the withers. The **eyes** are oval, of medium size, dark, and set relatively wide apart. Eye rims are black without sagging or prominent haw. Light eyes are a serious fault. The **ears** are medium in size, triangularly shaped, set high, but not above, the level of the skull. The ear leather is dense, rounded at the bottom, hanging with the front edge lying against the head and terminating at approximately mid-cheek. Cropped ears are not acceptable. The **skull** is moderately wide with round, but not too pronounced cheek bones. The supraorbital arches and occiput bones are moderately expressed. The back skull is flat. The stop is moderate. The back skull is slightly longer than the muzzle measured from the stop to the occiput and stop to end of nose, an approximate ratio of 5:4. The **muzzle** is broad with a slight tapering towards the nose. A moustache and beard emphasize volume and give the muzzle a square shape. Viewed in profile, the topline of the muzzle is parallel to the topline of the backskull. The **nose** is large and black. **Nose color other than black is a disqualification.** **Lips** are thick, fleshy, black, tight and without flews. The gums have dark pigmentation. The **teeth** are large and white with full dentition. Any missing tooth is a severe fault. The incisors form a straight line at the base. A correct bite is a scissors bite. *Two or more missing teeth or bite other than a scissors bite is a disqualification.*

Neck, Topline and Body

Neck: The neck should be thick, muscular and powerful. The nape is strong and well expressed. There should be no pendulous or excessive dewlap. The length of the neck and the length of the head should be approximately the same. The neck is set at an approximate 45 degree angle to the line of the back. **Body:** The whole structure of the body should give the impression of strength. The chest is oval shaped, deep and wide with well-sprung ribs. The bottom line of the chest extends to the elbows or below and is not less than 50% of the dog's height measured from the withers. The forechest is pronounced. The withers are high, well developed and more pronounced in the male than in the female. There is a slight slope from the top of the withers into a straight, firm back. The back is approximately 1/2 of the distance between the top of the withers to the base of the tail. The last half of the backline is comprised of two equal parts, the loin and the croup measured to the base of tail. (The ratio of back to loin to croup measured to base of tail is 2:1:1.) The loin is short, wide, muscular, slightly arched and elastic. The croup is wide, muscular, and slopes slightly (5 to 10 degrees). The tail is thick, set moderately high, and is carried at an approximate 45 degree angle from the horizontal. When the tail is docked, there are 3 to 5 vertebrae remaining. An undocked tail is not to be penalized. The preferred shape of an undocked tail resembles a sickle or saber. The abdomen is moderately tucked up and firm.

Forequarters

Shoulders are well laid-back with blades broad and sloping. There is good return of upper arm so that the angle between the shoulder blade and the upper arm is approximately 100 degrees. Upper arms are muscular. Elbows sit close to the body and turn neither in nor out while standing or moving. The forelegs are straight, thick, of medium length, and parallel when viewed from the front. Length of the foreleg to the elbow is approximately 50% of dog's height at the withers. Pasterns are short, thick, and almost vertical. Front dewclaws should be removed. Feet are large, compact, and round in shape. Nails are black.

Hindquarters

Viewed from the rear the legs are straight and parallel, set slightly wider than the forelegs. The hindquarters are well boned and muscular with good angulation to be in balance with the front shoulder angulation. Thighs are muscular and broad when viewed from the side. The hocks are moderately short and vertical when standing. Rear dewclaws should be removed.

Coat

The coat is a double coat. The natural untrimmed coat length varies from 1 1/2" to 6". While the outer guard hair is coarser than the softer undercoat, it is not wiry or curly. The body coat has a slight to moderate wave. The furnishings on the head form a fall over the eyes and a moustache and beard on the muzzle. The legs are covered and protected by long, dense coat. Trimming of the natural coat is needed for suitable shape and upkeep.

For presentation in the show ring, the Black Russian Terrier should be trimmed so that the dog's outline is clearly defined. The trimmed length of coat and leg furnishings may vary from 0.2" to 6" depending upon the location on the body. The fall and muzzle furnishings may be longer than 6". In no case should grooming be given more weight than structure, movement and balance when evaluating the Black Russian Terrier.

continued on page 14

BLACK RUSSIAN TERRIER

continued from page 13

Color

The only acceptable color for the Black Russian Terrier is solid black or black with scattered gray hairs. *Any other color is considered a disqualification.*

Gait

A well-balanced Black Russian Terrier should move freely in a smooth, fluid motion. In movement the normal head carriage is extended forward and the backline remains level. As movement accelerates, the feet will converge toward a centerline. The Black Russian Terrier covers a lot of ground through strong reach of the forelegs and drive of the hindquarters.

Temperament

The character and temperament of the Black Russian Terrier is of utmost importance. The Black Russian Terrier is a calm, confident, courageous and self-assured dog. He is highly intelligent and adapts well to training. The Black Russian Terrier was initially bred to guard and protect. He is alert and responsive, instinctively protective, determined, fearless, deeply loyal to family, is aloof and therefore does not relish intrusion by strangers into his personal space. Shyness or excessive excitability is a serious fault.

Faults

Any departure from the foregoing ideal should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded is in proportion to its degree.

- Serious Faults
- Light bone
- Lack of substance
- Poor musculature
- Mature male under 27" or over 30"
- Mature female under 26" or over 29"
- Light colored eyes
- One missing tooth
- Shyness or excessive excitability
- Disqualifications
- Nose color other than black
- Two or more missing teeth
- Any bite other than a scissors bite
- Any coat color other than solid black or black with scattered gray hairs

AKITA BREED STANDARD

continued from page 1

the Akita are characteristic of the breed. They are strongly erect and small in relation to rest of head. If ear is folded forward for measuring length, tip will touch upper eye rim. Ears are triangular, slightly rounded at tip, wide at base, set wide on head but not too low, and carried slightly forward over eyes in line with back of neck. *Disqualification--Drop or broken ears.* *Eyes--Dark brown, small, deep-set and triangular in shape. Eye rims black and tight.* *Lips and Tongue--Lips black and not pendulous; tongue pink.* *Teeth--Strong with scissors bite preferred, but level bite acceptable.* *Disqualification--Noticeably undershot or overshot.*

Neck and Body

Neck--Thick and muscular; comparatively short, widening gradually toward shoulders. A pronounced crest blends in with base of skull. *Body--Longer than high, as to 10 is to 9 in males; 11 to 9 in bitches. Measurement from the point of the sternum to the point of buttocks. Chest wide and deep; reaching down to the elbow, the depth of the body at the elbow equals half the height of the dog at the withers. Ribs well sprung, brisket well developed. Level back with firmly-muscled loin and moderate tuck-up. Skin pliant but not loose.* *Serious Faults--Light bone, rangy body.*

Tail

Large and full, set high and carried over back or against flank in a three-quarter, full, or double curl, always dipping to or below level of back. On a three-quarter curl, tip drops well down flank. Root large and strong. Tail bone reaches hock when let down. Hair coarse, straight and full, with no appearance of a plume. *Disqualification--Sickle or uncurled tail.*

Forequarters and Hindquarters

Forequarters--Shoulders strong and powerful with moderate layback. Forelegs heavy-boned and straight as viewed from front. Angle of pastern 15 degrees forward from vertical. Faults--Elbows in or out, loose shoulders. *Hindquarters--Width, muscular development and bone comparable to forequarters. Upper thighs*

well developed. Stifle moderately bent and hocks well let down, turning neither in nor out. *Dewclaws--On front legs generally not removed; dewclaws on hind legs generally removed.* *Feet--Cat feet, well knuckled up with thick pads. Feet straight ahead.*

Coat

Double-coated. Undercoat thick, soft, dense and shorter than outer coat. Outer coat straight, harsh and standing somewhat off body. Hair on head, legs and ears short. Length of hair at withers and rump approximately two inches, which is slightly longer than on rest of body, except tail, where coat is longest and most profuse. *Fault--Any indication of ruff or feathering.*

Color

Any color including white; brindle; or pinto. Colors are rich, brilliant and clear. Markings are well balanced, with or without mask or blaze. White Akitas have no mask. Pinto has a white background with large, evenly placed patches covering head and more than one-third of body. Undercoat may be a different color from outer coat.

Gait

Brisk and powerful with strides of moderate length. Back remains strong, firm and level. Rear legs move in line with front legs.

Size

Males 26 to 28 inches at the withers; bitches 24 to 26 inches. *Disqualification--dogs under 25 inches; bitches under 23 inches.*

Temperament

Alert and responsive, dignified and courageous. Akitas may be intolerant of other dogs, particularly of the same sex.

Disqualifications

- Butterfly nose or total lack of pigmentation on nose.*
- Drop or broken ears.*
- Noticeably undershot or overshot.*
- Sickle or uncurled tail.*

POLISH LOWLAND SHEEPDOG BREED STANDARD

continued from page 2

It is doubled coated. The entire body is covered with a long, dense, shaggy, thick coat that is reasonably straight. The outercoat should be crisp with a water resistant texture. The undercoat is soft and dense. Different coat colors will have different textures with the black coat having little or no coarse outercoat and less undercoat. Characteristically, long hanging hair **covers the eyes**. A slight wavy coat is acceptable.

Fault: A curly, short or silky coat. Lack of undercoat. A fly away or thin, wispy coat that easily “flies” over the dog when in movement.

The Polish Lowland Sheepdog **must** be shown naturally with an “unkempt” but clean appearance—any scissoring of the coat **must** be penalized so severely as to eliminate the dog from competition.

Only the hair between the pads may be trimmed.

Severe fault: Any coat that appears to be visibly scissored or sculpted.

Color

All coat colors are acceptable. The most common colors are white with either black, gray or sandy patches and gray with white, or chocolate. Most carry a dominant fading factor genetically, which results in puppies being born darker in coat color than they will appear as adults with the exception of those puppies born white.

Gait

The gait should be balanced, efficient, and appear effortless. Leg movement should always be in two parallel lines without crossing or departing from one line. There is a slight and natural tendency

to converge in the front and rear when significantly increasing the speed of trot. The neck is carried not more than 45 degrees to the ground when moving. With the correct shoulder angulation, the forward reach of the front leg should be fluent and to the dogs nose. This length of stride propels forward movement with less fatigue. The greatest source of his forward drive is derived from good rear angulation. When viewed from behind, the back legs should be parallel to each other and not too close.

Temperament

He is stable and self confident. He needs a dominant master and consistent training from the time he is very young. If this is not provided, he will tend to dominate the master. When not used as a herding or working dog, he can be a magnificent companion as he seems to fit into any type of lifestyle. He is extremely loyal, but somewhat aloof and suspicious of strangers. *Faults:* Nervous, cowardly, or extreme vicious behavior.

Faults

The foregoing description is that of the ideal Polish Lowland Sheepdog. Any deviation from the above described dog must be penalized to the extent of the deviation.

Disqualifications

Blue or yellow (bird-of-prey) eyes

Overshot or undershot bite

2009 LOW ENTRY BREEDS LIST

continued from page 11

Affenpinschers	Greyhounds	Pyrenean Shepherds
American Eskimo Dogs	German Pinschers	Redbone Coonhounds
Anatolian Shepherds	Harriers	Retrievers - Curly-Coated
Australian Terriers	Ibizan Hounds	Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Rtrs.
Black and Tan Coonhounds	Irish Terriers	Scottish Deerhounds
Baucerons	Komondorok	Sealyham Terriers
Bedlington Terriers	Kuvaszok	Setters Irish Red & White
Belgian Malinois	Lakeland Terriers	Skye Terriers
Black Russian Terriers	Lowchen	Spaniels - American Water
Bluetick Coonhounds	Miniature Bull Terriers	Spaniels - Boykin
Briards	Neapolitan Mastiffs	Spaniels - Field
Canaan Dogs	Norfolk Terriers	Spaniels - Irish Water
Dandie Dinmont Terriers	Norwegian Buhunds	Spaniels - Sussex
Dogues de Bordeaux	Otterhounds	Spaniel - Welsh Springer
English Toy Spaniels	Pharaoh Hounds	Spinoni Italiani
Finnish Spitz	Plotts	Swedish Vallhund
Foxhounds American	Pointer (German Wirehaired)	Tibetan Mastiffs
Foxhounds English	Polish Lowland Sheepdogs	Welsh Terriers
Glen of Imaal Terriers	Pulik	Wirehaired Pointing Griffons



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB®

Senior Editor

John Wade

Editor

Ines Maldonado

Contributors

John Wade

Peter Gaeta

Marie Mason

Mary Dukes

Patricia Proctor

Dr. John Gann

Sue Vroom

Bob & Jane Forsyth

Production Editor

Kathy Caruana

Designer

Whistle Stop Press

Published by

The American

Kennel Club

for

Approved Judges

Conformation

and

Junior Sportsmanship

The Standard

THE AKC INSTITUTE FOR ASPIRING AND NEWLY APPROVED JUDGES

September 5, 2009
Greeley, Colorado

"In Conjunction With The Evergreen Colorado KC Dog Show"

ISLAND GROVE REGIONAL PARK

501 N. 14th Avenue

Greeley, Colorado 80631

Time: 8:00am – 4:30pm

October 31, 2009
Fort Wayne, Indiana

"In Conjunction With The Old Fort Cluster Dog Shows"

ALLEN COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM

4000 Parnell Avenue

Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805

Time: 8:00am – 4:30pm

January 23, 2010
Portland, Oregon

"In Conjunction With The Rose City Classic Dog Shows"

PORTLAND METROPOLITAN EXPOSITION CENTER

2050-2060 North Marine Drive

Portland, Oregon

Time: 8:00am – 4:30pm

March 27, 2010
Fort Worth, Texas

"In Conjunction With The Fort Worth Kennel Club Show"

WILL ROGERS MEMORIAL CENTER

1 Amon Carter Square

3400 Burnett-Tandy (Crestline)

Fort Worth, TX 76107

Time: 8:00am – 4:30pm

April 10, 2010
Dekalb, Illinois

"In Conjunction With The Kennel Club Of Yorkville Dog Show"

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Convocation Center

1525 W. Lincoln Highway, Dekalb, IL 60115

Time: 8:00am – 4:30pm

[**Download a Registration Form**](#)

AKC/DJAA Advanced Sporting Institute

"In conjunction with "Bay Colony Cluster"

Middlesex County Kennel Club, Ladies' Dog Club,

Eastern Dog Club

Providence, Rhode Island

4- Day Seminar

[**Download a Registration Form**](#)

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