



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

October 3, 2012

The AKC Judging Operations Department is writing to inform all judges of a recent inquiry. Judging Operations has been asked if the AKC advises its judges that certain Foundation Stock Service Breeds are “not to be touched” when judging at AKC Open Shows or 4-6 Month Puppy Competitions.

Neither the Judging Operations Department nor the AKC advises its judges “not to touch” certain breeds in their judging. This includes fully recognized breeds, breeds currently in the Miscellaneous Group and AKC Foundation Stock Service (FSS) breeds. All breeds seeking recognition by the AKC for full competition at its events are advised that judges will be required to complete breed specific examinations in conformation judging which includes oral exams, feeling for breed-specific characteristics and specific points of reference, checking for breed standard disqualifications and for two normally descended testicles in males. Any dog attacking the judge or any person in the ring is to be disqualified whether the breed has full recognition, a FSS breed or currently in the Miscellaneous Group. This applies to AKC Conformation Shows, Open Shows and the 4-6 Month Puppy Competitions.

I am available at any time to answer questions about AKC judging procedures. You are encouraged to contact the Judging Operations Department if you require additional clarification in regard to the information provided above.

Sincerely,

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