



E-NEWS FOR JEC'S SEPTEMBER 2008

JUDGES EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

In January of 2006 Judging Operations assumed the responsibilities of Judges Education department. This entails the publishing of the quarterly Judges Newsletter, "The Standard", listing seminar information in the Events Calendar and website, maintaining a listing of Judges Education Coordinators, Judges Study Groups, and National Specialties. A goal high on our list is the ongoing education of conformation judges through institutes, seminars and the distribution of educational items. Feel free to view the following link for valuable information:
www.akc.org/about/depts/judges_education.cfm

Upon requests, we create certificates (50 maximum), flyers (50 maximum), lists and labels for AKC clubs and organizations. Requests should be submitted in writing to Kathy Caruana at kac1@akc.org.

ARE YOU A NEW JEC?

Congratulations! If you recently became the new Judges Education Coordinator for your club, please contact Kathy Caruana at kac1@akc.org, so that we may mail you a Judges Education Coordinator's packet. The packet provides some basic guidelines and suggestions. Any changes in your contact information should also be submitted to Kathy. Please remember there are times when we need to inform you of important information concerning your breed, therefore address updates are very important.

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

Institutes, seminars and workshops must be accessible to American Kennel Club's Staff including the Executive Field Staff. Judging Operations Staff will be available as a resource, to promote a positive rapport in the judging community and make periodic presentations as Judging Operations considers appropriate and feasible.

Sponsoring organization must submit a summary and report of each Seminar and Workshop presented along with certification of attendance.

This report must document having met each condition outlined below.

For all institutes, seminars and workshops attended after April 1, 2006, credit toward the requirements for additional breeds will only be given according to the following conditions.

Seminars: One component will be counted for attendance at a breed specific "Seminar" providing its sole purpose is the presentation of information essential to judge that breed and:

- There is a 90 minute or longer presentation that includes history, form and function of the breed, an in-depth consideration of the Standard and a question and answer period.
- The presenter and content are Parent Club approved whenever possible.
- One or two live dogs are available for illustration and examination.
- Class size should be limited to 40.
- Attendance must be certified and reported to Judging Operations.

Workshops: One additional component will be counted for attendance at an accompanying breed-specific hands-on "Workshop" providing it is a clinical extension of a seminar and:

- A discussion of the proper prioritization of breed characteristics precedes the hands on.
- There is a 60 minute or longer period that includes instructions on how to properly effect a breed specific examination.
- There is the occasion to rank exhibits presented and explain placements to mentors.
- Mentor/Participant ratio should not exceed 1:10.
- A minimum of four dogs/bitches per group must be present. All must be at least six months of age. No dog/bitch may be examined by more than 20 individuals per day.
- Attendance must be certified and reported to Judging Operations.

Additional credit for "Mentoring" will not be given for experience as the institute. "Mentoring" credit

will be considered for relationships established at institutes/seminars/workshops and documented as ongoing.

MENTORING

Observer may observe with parent club approved mentors OR individuals with a minimum of 12 years experience breeding and exhibiting. Approved judges with regular status in the breed for 12 years may also mentor ringside. Observations with mentors not meeting the criteria will not be accepted.

Mentors will be permitted to participate on days they are exhibiting up to the class in which they have an entry. They will not be allowed to participate thereafter except at National or Regional Specialties where formal ringside mentoring is organized by the host club.

GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTERS

In an effort to improve all of our Institutes we have worked with a group of Breeders, Breeder Judges, Judges Education Chairs and a Delegate Parent Club Committee Member to make a “Template” for presenters. This “Template” is provided as a guideline or as suggestions to help presenters with their seminars, and hands-on presentations.

THE CLASSROOM - PRESENTATION

GOALS: To help create a clear mental image of correct breed type according to the standard. This mental image is necessary for good judging – sometimes the correct dog may look different from the others. A presenter has to be able to verbalize this mental image in easy to understand terms.

Clarify the breed standard. What does it call for? Where is the emphasis? Where do you “give” when judging this breed? Or what are you willing to “forgive” and why?

Reveal what longtime breeders think and value.

What are the hard to get virtues that are treasured and what is the drag of the breed? What are the hallmarks of the breed?

Familiarize the participant with the development of the breed, including its history and purpose and the evolution of breed type. Discuss those features important in a breed relative to its purpose, i.e. a herding dog’s ability to be sure footed and swift, or a bloodhound having enough extra skin to reach the ground in order to detect scent.

Provide BREED SPECIFIC exam techniques such as bite, mouth, the approach, eyes etc...

Why do you use your hands the way you do and what specifically are you checking for?

Answer questions regarding the breed and clear up any confusion regarding the standard, breed type and character. Personality: Aloof, overly friendly?

What should you expect as a judge when going over a breed? What is acceptable behavior (for example, Min Pins hardly ever stand still).

Finally, inspire the prospective judge with the beauty and uniqueness of the breed so that he or she WANTS to judge the breed.

PACKETS

The packets serve as an ongoing reference. Packets are handed out at the conclusion of the classroom session to avoid distraction from the speaker. The packet should be designed to reinforce and coincide with the material that was presented in the classroom.

Some items for inclusion in the packet:

- AKC Breed Standard
- Illustrated or Pictorial Standard
- Abbreviated standard such as Snapshots or Two-Minute Standard
- The Breeder’s Perspective
- Key articles regarding breed type and judging and any other material selected by the Judges Education Committee.
- Bibliography of educational materials
- National club website information including approved Mentors list.

HANDS-ON

The better the quality of the dogs the more powerful the presentation. Be sure to include dogs with strong virtues - these qualities will be much better understood if they are seen in the flesh. It is best to provide a wide age range of acceptable type (including color) for the attendees. Use the room provided as a ring and take charge of it as you would if you were actually judging.

If the Breed specific examination has not been covered in the classroom it should be done first.

What is the best way to approach the breed and what are its idiosyncrasies of temperament?

Why do you use your hands the way you do and what specifically are you checking for?

Provide BREED SPECIFIC exam techniques such as bite, mouth, the approach, eyes etc...

After the individual examination demonstration has been completed, line up a class of three or more dogs. Have the participants look at the dogs from across the room. This is the time to discuss and compare balance, proportion and shape. Next have the participants walk in line in front of the dogs to take a closer look at expression.

Repeat the above with a class of bitches and field any questions that arise.

Have half the participants go to one end of the room and half go to the other. Move the dogs down and back and field any questions regarding coming and going movement.

Next, have the participants go to one side of the room and move the dogs one at a time to assess side-gait. Ask them to go at least twice so the differences between the dogs are more apparent. Mention appropriate speed, reach, drive, foot timing, topline and efficiency. Turn any questions into a discussion and encourage the attendees to participate. If they are comfortable they will be less hesitant to ask their questions.

Line up the dogs in the center of the room so that participants can go over each one. Work with them individually on the examination and answer their questions.

After the participants have evaluated all the dogs request that they go and stand in front of the dog that is their "best" or class winner. Ask them to speak about the virtues that their choice possessed and encourage discussion at this point. If time permits ask the participants to move to their runner-up and elaborate on the virtues of these dogs. Keep the tone positive at all times and make it enjoyable as well as educational.

PUBLISHING A SEMINAR

Your seminar will be accepted only if it is sponsored by an AKC Club, Judges Workshop or a Federation of Dog Clubs and taught by a parent club, designated mentor wherever possible.

You will need to submit written confirmation from the Parent club. Submit your seminars to Kathy Caruana kac1@akc.org. Once the notice is received, it will be published in the Gazette and on

the Website. Please be advised in order to publish your seminar in the Gazette it needs to be submitted at least three months in advance before it appears in the Gazette. The Website announcement will be posted within 2-3 days.

PARENT CLUB APPROVED MENTORS?

Do we have your list? The Judge's Education Department is asking All Breed Parent Clubs to provide us with a list of your approved mentors including contact information (Name, City, State, Phone and/or email; complete mailing address may be included if desired). This will assist the Judges Education Department with requests for individual breed mentors. Clubs who would like to submit a list or who have previously submitted a list but would like to make changes please email that information to Katie Rudolph at kxr@akc.org.

SHARE WITH US

As Judges Education Coordinators you may have tips and news that would be of interest to your fellow coordinators. We welcome your thoughts or other features for the publication in this newsletter or the standard. If you wish to share your ideas with us, please send them to Ines Maldonado, fax 919-816-4225, e-mail ixm@akc.org

Best of luck and please do not hesitate to contact us.

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