WEIGHING and MEASURING

WICKET AND SCALE

PRESENTATION BY
AKC STAFF
The ability to execute an accurate measurement is owed to the exhibitor and is a basic requirement for AKC judges with applicable breeds.
RULES PERTAINING TO THE WICKET/SCALE

- Event committees are responsible for providing suitable, AKC approved equipment. *Note: There is one approved style of wicket equipment, and several types of scales. Check the superintendent’s scale prior to start of assignment.*

- Judges are required to use equipment that meets AKC specifications.

- Measurements may be performed ONLY on breeds where certain height/weight is specified in the breed standard as a disqualification or class eligibility.

- An entry may be measured/weighed ONCE during the course of a show.
EXHIBITOR PROTESTS

- A competing exhibitor has the option to request a measurement IF exhibiting in the same class and the exhibit has not previously been measured during competition at the show.
- A breed standard DQ request may be made on any level of competition – the exhibitor must be in the same class – including Winner’s, BoB, Group, BiS
- The request must be made to the judge BEFORE the last dog in the class has been examined.
- The request must be made by individual armband number/numbers.
BREED STANDARD DQ & CONDITIONS OF CLASS

- Breed Standard DQ – A weight/measurement may be administered on any level of competition by judge’s decision or by exhibitor protest exhibiting in the class if no prior measurement has been done on the day.

- Conditions of Class – The option to measure/weigh exists only in the applicable class for the judge or an exhibitor competing in the same class and requested before all dogs are examined. It may not be requested on any other level of competition.
THE WICKETS
USING THE WICKET

- Inform the superintendent of the breed to be measured when requesting the wicket.
- If possible, continue judging until the wicket arrives up until the examination of the last dog in the class.
- The judge is responsible for setting the wicket – lay on flat surface to set the legs.
- The ring steward is NOT responsible for verifying the accuracy of the setting, the measurement, holding the dog.
- Once set, verify both legs with a metal tape measure.
- Make sure the exhibitor understands the breed standard limits and verifies the accuracy of both leg settings.
How to Use the Wicket
Illustration

Hold here (squeezing not necessary)

Be careful holding here

Do not hold here!

Measure both legs from here to there and verify

Do not measure to or from here!
The withers run from the 1st to the 9th thoracic vertebra. Sometimes the withers are referred to as the upper tips of the scapula.
INSURING AN ACCURATE MEASUREMENT

- It is permissible to leave the ring to seek a level, stable surface.
- A portable surface may be brought into the ring *ie; a collapsed examining table, ply-board.*
- It may be necessary for the judge and exhibitor to carry out a weight measurement at the Superintendent’s table due to scale calibration.
THE MEASUREMENT

- Dogs normally examined on the ground are measured on the ground – table dogs are measured on the table. On optional breeds, exhibitor may be given the choice.
- Handler is to set the dog to the judge’s specifications.
- **At no time, should the judge set the dog or hold the head.**
- Feel for the highest point of the wither only – do not otherwise touch the dog.
- With the wicket legs straddling the hips, move forward to the measuring point and lower it making gentle contact to the withers or ground surface.
- Both legs must make contact to the surface of the ground or table to verify that the dog meets the required height.
Correct placement of wicket shoulder bar on wither

THE MEASUREMENT
Verify the correct wither location before applying wicket

COATED BREEDS
Allow the exhibitor to “open the coat” before starting measurement
THE SCALE
USING THE SCALE

- Call superintendent for delivery of scale to the ring.
- Continue judging until the scale arrives – up until the last dog in the class. *It may be necessary to take the dog and exhibitor to the superintendent’s office for weighing.*
- You must verify the correct calibration with the exhibitor.
- Exhibitor must be given the option of placing the dog on the scale with the lead off or on.
- Weight is determined without the dog being touched – lead may be held loosely.
- Dog may either sit or stand on the scale.
POSITIONING OF THE DOG
DOGS THAT RESIST MEASUREMENT/WEIGHT

- Only **ONE** attempt is allowed.
- Dogs resisting the measurement must be excused from the class.
- Write in the Judge’s book, “Excused, could not measure/weigh” and initial the notation.
DQS vs CLASS ELIGIBILITY

- Measurement/weight for conditions of a class - *i.e.* Beagles, Bostons, Pekes, etc.
- If measured/weighed out, the judge’s book notation shall be, “Measured/Weighed out, Ineligible”
- Exhibit may NOT transfer to any other class.
- A dog declared **ineligible** by 3 different judges may not again be shown in that class.
- A dog measured out per breed standard requirement and declared **DQ-ed** by 3 different judges may not again be shown.
The Wicket/Scale Test

- Required for judges interviewing for applicable breeds.
- Judges who have taken exam in previous 5 years are exempt UNLESS they have failed exam/received a negative report in that time.
- Failure to pass results in a hold on the affected breeds pending passing re-exam.
- A re-test is required for any negative field report pertaining to incorrect use of the scale/wicket.
- Failure of this test may result in review and the potential removal of applicable breeds.
TAKING THE TEST

- A duplication of the procedure/setting that would apply to a judging situation.
- The test is ideally given in an empty show ring in order to simulate actual class conditions.
- It is a test to ascertain proficiency, NOT a demonstration by the field rep.
- Wicket test: An appropriate metal measuring tape must be provided by the judge.
- All areas of procedure and execution of the equipment must be accurate in order to pass.
WICKETS

EXPECTATIONS TO PASS

1. ADVISE what is being measured
   ✓ Max? Min?
   ✓ Confirm the height – Breed Standard
2. SET the wicket
   ✓ Proper procedure–Use metal tape–verify both leg settings
3. CONFIRM the setting with the exhibitor
4. INSTRUCT the exhibitor to set dog
5. MEASURE the dog
6. INFORM the exhibitor of the results
   ✓ In or DQ/Ineligible for class
7. INDICATE how you would mark your book
SCALES

EXPECTATIONS TO PASS

1. ADVISE of why you are weighing
2. CALIBRATE the scale
   ✓ Use certified weight to test for scale accuracy
   ✓ Verify with the exhibitor
3. ASK lead on or off – give the exhibitor the option
4. INSTRUCT to place the dog on the scale
5. INFORM the exhibitor of the result
   ✓ In or DQ/Ineligible for class
6. INDICATE how you would mark your book
YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ACQUIRING THE SKILL AND KNOWLEDGE FOR THE PROFICIENT USE OF WICKET/SCALE AS AN INTEGRAL COMPONENT OF APPLICABLE BREED STUDY
Please take time to view the video on measuring and weighing procedure available on the AKC® website.

To view the video click here