Judging Approval Process Proposal

The Judging Approval Proposal authored by members of the Board of Directors was distributed via email on Tuesday, October 27, 2014. The information was sent to conformation judges, delegates, club officers, exhibitors and members of the dog press and included the draft proposal, an overview of the Board’s proposal, a Q&A document and a sample matrix of educational criteria for additional breed applicants.

In addition, the information and all related documents were posted on the AKC website for a 21 day period as requested by the Board of Directors at its October 2014 meeting to afford the fancy an opportunity to review and submit comments. That period expired on November 18th, and subsequently, all related information regarding the proposal was removed.

It is the intent of the Board to review the comments and recommendations supplied by the fancy during the 21 day period prior to the December 2014 Board meeting. Based on the feedback received, further modifications to the proposal may be considered by the Board at or prior to its December 2014 meeting.

Due to the fact that there has not been a vote to approve a revised Judging Approval Process or even a final proposal at this time, it would be premature to post or discuss aspects of the Board’s proposal.

If and when a revised Judging Approval Process has been adopted by the Board, an implementation date will need to be established. The Judging Operations Department will notify the fancy if and when this should occur and of the established implementation date. Until that time, all requirements for applications, requests for regular status, number of assignments and all other items pertaining to judging must meet the criteria of the current policy.
The Advanced Judges Institute for the Hound and Herding breeds, hosted by the American Kennel Club and the Dog Judges Association of America, will be held Tuesday, December 9, 2014 through Friday, December 12, 2014 in Orlando, Florida.

This institute, in conjunction with the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship and the Orlando Cluster of Dog Shows, will cover all the breeds in the Hound and Herding groups providing the opportunity to obtain education and hands-on experience in up to 12 breeds in one location. In addition, we will also be offering a Measuring and Weighing seminar and a Judging Junior Showmanship seminar, not to mention the chance to attend the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship Show! Cost for this Advanced Institute is $425.

**Registrations accepted until Dec 1, 2014**

**AKC/DJAA Advanced Judging Institute**
8:00 am - 5:30 pm
Tuesday, Dec. 9 – Friday, Dec. 12, 2014
Orange County Convention Center
Orlando, FL

Hound breeds are filling quickly!
For more details, please view the [registration form](#).

**NOHS & Specialty Awards of Merit**

With the inclusion of the AKC National Owner-Handled Series at specialties and just coming out of “National Specialty” season, the Events Department recently posted the following clarification concerning the effect of an Award of Merit (AOM) in the determination of NOHS Best of Breed.

**Q & A**

**If a dog receives an Award of Merit (AOM), are the other eligible dogs in the ring considered eliminated for the purposes of determining Owner-Handed Best of Breed/Variety?**

No, the other dogs in the ring are not eliminated by any dog(s) receiving an Award of Merit (AOM). The AOM is a club award which the criteria for awarding are determined by each individual club. Since the AOM is not an AKC award and the criteria vary from club to club these dogs are not considered to have eliminated any dogs in the Best of Breed/Variety ring for the purposes of determining Owner-Handled Best of Breed/Variety. The judging procedures for determining Owner-Handled Best of Breed/Variety for the NOHS can be found at [http://www.apps.akc.org/classic/ohs/judging.cfm](http://www.apps.akc.org/classic/ohs/judging.cfm).

This question and additional information regarding the AKC National Owner-Handled Series can be viewed on the AKC website at [http://www.akc.org/ohs/QandA.cfm](http://www.akc.org/ohs/QandA.cfm).
The Standard

On occasion, we will highlight an area associated with proper judging procedures which have been a frequent topic of questions or an area of difficulty expressed in observation reports. In this issue, we will review two different subjects.

Where each breed is to be examined is determined by its parent club. It is at their discretion to determine whether the breed is to be examined on the floor or the table. In addition, they may request that the breed is to be judged on the ramp at the discretion of the judge with the caveat that all entries must be examined in the same manner. Three breeds, Basset Hounds, Bulldogs and now Chow Chows have requested and been approved to be required to be judged on the ramp in all levels of conformation competition.

Information pertaining to the examination of breeds is posted on the AKC website and included in the Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges. Included in the judging guidelines is the following requirement related to designated table breeds:

**Table Breeds**: Designated table breeds must be examined on an examination table. A maximum of two dogs may be placed on the table at the same time. If re-examination is necessary for a table breed, they must be placed back on the table. Special care should be taken in the positioning of the table.

Applying this in the ring at any point while judging table breeds, you must place the entrant on the table for its initial examination and any re-examination that requires placing your hands in the dog.

The second topic which can be confusing for even experienced judges is multiple entries of the same dog. AKC Rules (Chapter 14 Section 1), require that once a dog competes, it must continue to compete in all competition in its breed or variety for which it is entered or becomes eligible. The caveat for this would be if the dog is excused, dismissed, disqualified or found to be ineligible under the rules.

The most frequent error associated with the application of this rule whether a dog defeated in a previous class is or is not required to compete in a subsequent class it has... continued on page 5
The Board of Directors at its October 2014 meeting acted upon several items pertaining to the Board policy regarding the use of ramps. The following modifications were adopted, effective January 1, 2015.

- As a result of an approval of a request made by the Chow Chow Club, Inc., Chow Chows must be judged on the ramp at the breed, Group and Best in Show levels.

- The requirement* for Basset Hounds, Bulldogs and Chow Chows to be judged on the ramp will extend to all conformation competition held at AKC conformation dog shows and any AKC event where a conformation title may be earned. This policy applies to Junior Showmanship, the 4–6 Month Beginner Puppy Competition, the AKC National Owner-Handled Series (NOHS), and all other special attractions that offer Group and BIS competitions.

- The ramp will be available at the discretion of the judge for all ramp optional breeds through all levels of competition including Group and Best in Show judging.

- The Board removed the requirement for judges requesting the use of a ramp to provide notification to the superintendent/show secretary 5 to 10 business days prior to the event.

- Staff was directed to write to the parent clubs for all ramp optional breeds and inquire if the breed wishes to remain as optional at the discretion of the judge or to be expected (required) to be judged on the ramp through all levels of competition. Parent clubs were requested to respond by March 15, 2015 with any changes resulting from this inquiry to be effective July 1, 2015.

*Note – For the sake of consistency and clarity to our judges and exhibitors, it was decided to revise the verbiage related to the use of ramps for Bassets, Bulldogs and Chows from “expected to be judged...” to “must be judged on the ramp,” coinciding with designated table breeds, which must be judged on the table.

In addition, English Springer Spaniels and Cardigan Welsh Corgis will be added to the list of breeds eligible to be judged on the ramp at the discretion of the judge effective January 1, 2015. The table-ramp list has been updated to include this information and posted on the AKC website in the Judging Resource Center.
been entered. Chapter 14 Section 1 clearly states that it must, however it is important to remember the key phrase, “…which it is entered or becomes eligible.”

To illustrate, let’s consider the following example:

Exhibitor enters their class dog in puppy dog, bred by exhibitor and open.

✓ Once it starts it must continue – the dog may be absent in puppy, and BBE; but if it shows in either class it must show in the subsequent classes regardless of the results from the prior classes in which it competed.

✓ To be eligible for Winners, the dog MUST be awarded 1st place in EVERY class in which it competes – Winners class is defined as undefeated dogs of the same sex which have won first prizes in either the Puppy, Twelve-to-Fifteen Month, Fifteen-to Eighteen Month, Twelve-to-Eighteen Month, Novice, Amateur-Owner-Handler, Bred-by-Exhibitor, American-bred or Open Classes. (Chapter 3 Section 11)

✓ The dog may only be called into Reserve Winners if the dog selected Winners was the ONLY dog that defeated it in the classes.

Beyond the effect on the Winners and Reserve Winners classes, there is potential effect in the Best of Breed competition, especially at specialty shows. The most frequent occurrence for this is when a dog is entered in the regular classes and a non-regular class such as Veterans, Field Dog, Sled Dog, etc.

For example:

1 | Veteran Dog/Bitch also entered in Best of Breed.
   – May only compete in BOB if awarded 1st place or absent in veterans (or any other non-regular).
   – If defeated in the Veterans class, it is ineligible to compete in BOB according to Chapter 3 Section 13 of the Rules.

2 | Class dog bitch also entered in a non-regular class.
   – If it competes in the classes (puppy thru Open), it must compete in the non-regular class.
   – If defeated in the classes and awarded 1st place in Veterans – not eligible to compete for BOB.
   – If awarded winners and defeated in Veterans – must be called into for BOB solely for the purpose of Best of Winners. Not eligible for BOB or BOS. (As Winners – automatically not eligible for Select).

While this all may seem confusing, there is no reason for it to be. A simple perusal through your judge’s book before starting your assignment will enable you to see if you will be faced with any dogs entered in multiple classes. If you are not sure how, or did not realize before, all multiple entries of the same dog will be indicated by parenthesis (#) and the armband number will be the same for all classes in the breed. The first entry will not be inside of parenthesis, but every additional entry of that dog will be. This includes sweepstakes, junior showmanship and companion events. To avoid confusion, the first class is always the initial regular conformation class the dog may be entered. To clarify, dog entered in sweepstakes, puppy dog and bred by exhibitor; the armband number will be the same for all classes, puppy will not be in parenthesis but BBE and sweepstakes will be.

Even if not caught in the morning, when checking armbands at the beginning of a class, if you see parenthesis, it should “flick on the light switch” that you have a multiple entered dog and to check previous classes. If absent before, it is not required to compete. If present, it must continue unless it was excused or disqualified in a prior class.

Lastly, if a dog entered in multiple classes, competes and wins a class and then refuses to enter subsequent class(es) in which it was entered, the dog should not be called in to compete for Winners.

If you are faced with this situation at a future assignment and unsure how to address it properly; please make sure to consult with the Executive Field Representative in attendance. If recognized before your assignment, bring the matter to the attention of the EFR or the show chairman so time permitting they can be at the ring to speak with the exhibitor and explain the applicable rules to dogs entered in multiple classes. This is not the judge’s or ring steward’s responsibility. Once advised, the exhibitor can make an informed decision as to which class to begin competing.
It has come to the attention of the Great Pyrenees Club of America’s Judges Education Committee that of late there have been several incidences where breed judges have not properly checked for double dewclaws during the breed examination. Just looking at them is not enough. With the amount of hair that is on the leg it is impossible to determine if the dew claws are single, double or triple or in some cases exists at all. With this in mind the Judges Education Committee would like to clarify the process. The correct examination of our breed requires the judge to reach down and physically touch to verify the existence of double dewclaws. It is a hallmark of the breed and as such it is an important part of the examination.

Quote from the Great Pyrenees AKC Approved Standard: “Double dewclaws are located on each rear leg.”

Quotes from the GPCA’s Standard Visualization and Commentary: “FAULT: ABSENCE OF DOUBLE DEW CLAWS ON EACH LEG” (page 27) and “Inside each rear leg are located double dewclaws. While these dewclaws do not serve a recognized function today, they are a traditional breed characteristic.” (page 29)

We would like to thank the judges that are presently doing the exam correctly. We hope that in bringing this to everyone’s attention it will make all of the judges aware of the fact and they will comply in the future.

– Respectfully the Judges Education Committee of the Great Pyrenees Club of America

In appreciation of those individuals who have served the sport as active judges over time, the American Kennel Club recognizes judges who reach the 25 and/or 50 year milestones.

Recently, Mrs. Lydia Coleman-Hutchinson reached the 50 year milestone and was honored at the Montgomery County Kennel Club, where she was presented a plaque commemorating her 50 years as an AKC judge.

The AKC would like to thank Lydia for her lifetime dedication to the sport of pure-bred dogs and congratulate her on her achievements as an owner, breeder, exhibitor and judge.
More and more we are seeing judges from other countries. Many times Visiting Judges do not realize what is expected of them as judges in the U.S. Visiting Judges certainly have their work cut out for them when judging AKC shows. Other than the obvious challenges of travel arrangements, contracts and even sometimes language barriers, the Visiting Judge has responsibilities to The American Kennel Club, show-giving clubs and exhibitors alike.

Visiting Judges are expected to be thoroughly familiar with and judge according to AKC rules, regulations and policies. Prior to an assignment, Visiting Judges are advised to review the Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges to ensure they are up to date with current AKC procedures and policies. This informative booklet contains policies regarding judge’s responsibilities in and out of the ring as well as an explanation of Rules and Procedures applying to judging AKC Dog Shows. It is the responsibility of the Visiting Judge employed by a club to judge at an AKC event to be familiar with regular and non-regular classes, Grand Champion, the awarding of Select Dog and Select Bitch as well as any Special Attractions that may be offered. It is equally as important to understand Group, Best in Show and Reserve Best in Show procedure.

The Visiting Judge should be well prepared and have done their homework in regard to Breed Standards set forth by AKC. The AKC Breed Standards can vary greatly from their home country and it is the Visiting Judge’s responsibility to know and judge according to the AKC approved breed standard for each breed assigned to judge.

Upon arrival at the show, Visiting Judges are required to check in with the AKC Executive Field Representative 30 minutes prior to the start of his/her judging assignment. The Field Rep will review their responsibilities concerning proper procedure including speed of judging, checking armband numbers, excusals, disqualifications and withholding awards as well as all “Homework” they have done prior to their arrival in the U.S.
Judging is the most important part of the dog show. We point and a new winner emerges. At ringside prospective pet owners watch in hopes of finding a breeder, they study us. Maybe they will be encouraged to join our sport, to have their dog shown in conformation.

Unfortunately, over the years we have seen the number of entries at shows decline. The AKC acknowledges companion entries are rising while conformation entries are declining. Does this mean we have fewer people breeding and more people competing with their pets? We need to ask ourselves if we can do something to reverse the conformation trend.

I am writing this article because of an incident that happened one weekend. One of my puppy owners decided to show her dog at a local show. I had planned to be there but things came up. I suggested she show her young special in my absence. Here is what happened:

As fate would have it, her dog was first in line. My young owner was in the dark as to what the judge wanted. The judge had little patience for my owner. She berated her and told her she needed to go to handling classes. When it was all over, my owner left the building in tears. People called and told me what had transpired. They said even the seasoned handlers were uncertain of what this judge wanted. Finally, I got a hold of my owner and she said she didn’t think she would be going to any more shows. She is a new mother and both she and her husband are lawyers at a large law firm in our area. She is the model of whom we want to attract to our sport.

The judge was an old pro, judging well before I was showing. The judge’s actions just lost us a very good show person, someone who could do a lot for our aging sport. In a day when people have many choices and little spare time I think we should all be cognizant of how our actions affect our sport. Just because you are tired, don’t take it out on the novice exhibitor. They may be my young lawyer. They are the future and actions like this do not bode well for our sport.

Last weekend at the shows, the AKC Rep talked to us about the actions of a judge the previous day. This long time judge scolded an open class for its lack of quality while placing the dogs 1-4. I guess she said that to the wrong people because they complained to the Rep who then talked to us.

As a gatekeeper, we chose the top dogs of their breeds. In the process, we can encourage or discourage. A warm smile or bit of assistance can keep an unsuccessful exhibitor involved in our sport. Your frown and curt motions can be the impetus that makes this the last time they ever exhibit a dog at an AKC show. You are the gatekeeper; open the door for newcomers. Please try to grow our sport. Think of it as ensuring your job security.
Dear Judges and Judges Applicants;

The Schipperke Club of America’s Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to address a very important issue that we feel can have a negative impact on the future of our breed.

There has been an increasing trend toward exhibitors “trimming/sculpting” their Schipperkes for the conformation ring.

The Schipperke Club of America has attempted to be clear on this matter in both our standard and the Code of Ethics for its members. The Code of Ethics states that we agree “To accept and uphold the Standard of the Schipperke as developed by the SCA and approved by the AKC.” The approved breed standard states: “As the Schipperke is a natural breed, only trimming of the whiskers and hair between the pads of the feet is optional. Any other trimming must not be done.”

The proper, natural pattern of the schipperke consists of varying lengths of coat making up the distinct ruff, jabot, cape, topline and culottes. We realize that it may be difficult to make the distinction between a correct, natural pattern and one that has been “expertly” trimmed to cut in the pattern. A dog possessing this distinct pattern in these areas should not be immediately suspected as being trimmed. In some recent cases where dogs have been trimmed/sculpted, it is trimming of the underline and culottes of the dog which is being done.

The following is quoted directly from the current AKC Standard for schipperkes to give a further understanding of the unique coat pattern in the breed:

Coat Pattern —The adult coat is highly characteristic and must include several distinct lengths growing naturally in a specific pattern. The coat is short on the face, ears, front of the forelegs and on the hocks; it is medium length on the body, and longer in the ruff, cape, jabot and culottes. The ruff begins in back of the ears and extends completely around the neck; the cape forms an additional distinct layer extending beyond the ruff; the jabot extends across the chest and down between the front legs. The hair down the middle of the back, starting just behind the cape and continuing over the rump, lies flat. It is slightly shorter than the cape but longer than the hair on the sides of the body and sides of the legs. The coat on the rear of the thighs forms culottes, which should be as long as the ruff. Lack of differentiation in coat lengths should be heavily penalized, as it is an essential breed characteristic.

We have addressed this issue with our membership and have pointed out that each of us must look at our breeding programs and decide whether giving the appearance of correcting a fault by trimming is worth continuing to see this fault in generations to come.

We realize that as judges, you are a very important influence in determining our breed’s future and hope that you will help us in keeping the Schipperke a unique and natural breed.

Sincerely,

Kristin Morrison, President
On Behalf of the Schipperke Club of America Board of Directors
Simple Courtesies and Common Sense

By Sydney Good, AKC Executive Field Representative

Simple courtesies many days can make or break an exhibitor’s experience at a show. Many of these are just good common sense, but sometimes we all tend to forget that these actions are very meaningful to exhibitors and the smooth running of an event.

These are just a few of the simple things that you can keep in mind when judging. I realize that there are many more, but space is limited.

**PLEASE:**

- Refrain from showing personal tablet and smartphone pictures of dogs that you have given awards to, are affiliated with, own or co-own, to other Judges on the panel who might one day be adjudicating that dog or dogs. This is especially significant when sitting in or outside the group ring. Voices carry and are easily overheard by exhibitors nearby. This is becoming more and more common, especially with the availability of these electronic devices.

- Refrain from criticizing awards made by fellow Judges during the Groups and throughout the day.

- Refrain from criticizing dogs in the Group ring and that are currently being exhibited. I know that you are excited to tell everyone about the great one you found that day, but it can be taken as promoting. And, in the negative, can be taken as trying to influence.

- Take your Judges Book back to the Superintendent upon completion of your judging assignment. Remember, you, not your Steward, are responsible for it. One of our All-Rounders still consistently goes out of his way to return his book to the Superintendent, even after doing his group.

- Refrain from talking to exhibitors when examining their dogs. It may be all very innocent, but it’s the perception.

- Watch all of the dogs when gaiting individually, even though not considering them. Exhibitors are very aware when you are ignoring them, or are giving the appearance of not watching them.

- Refrain from making unsolicited comments when handing out ribbons, especially to the lower placements, even though you may know them. Your comments are not heard correctly most of the time, and are totally misinterpreted by the time they get back to us with complaints.

- Refrain from touching Exhibitors in any manner, especially in Junior Showmanship. This can be totally misinterpreted, especially by the losers.

- If you are running behind schedule and another Judge is due in your ring, take pictures elsewhere.

- Try not to judge with sunglasses on when inside. Exhibitors want to see where you are looking.

- Be courteous and professional. More complaints are received regarding how rude you are and unpleasant, than the quality of your judging. Your attitude is very important. Look as though you are enjoying what you are doing, even though you may be having a terrible day.

- Be aware of your Steward’s attitude and demeanor also. Remember, the Steward is the first person that a new exhibitor comes in contact with at the ring.
The choices we make can greatly affect how we are perceived by the fancy. This especially applies to our judges. As an AKC approved judge, your integrity is of upmost importance. This exact subject is touched on in the Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges: (page 2)

AKC judges possess and project a commitment to integrity and ethical behavior that insures the reputation of AKC dog shows as fair and well judged. With common sense, judges can easily avoid situations which might raise ethical questions.

The things a judge may say or do on the weekends he/she judges can have a detrimental impact on how they are viewed by their exhibitors. When this occurs, it is usually due to carelessness or an absence of common sense. Below are a few reminders of activities to be avoided on the weekends you judge.

➊ Do not observe the judging of breeds you are scheduled to judge later in the weekend or cluster.
➋ If you are judging a specialty, do not sit ringside during sweepstakes or futurity judging.
➌ If you are asked to steward, do so only after you have completed your entire judging assignment. This applies to the entire show, weekend, circuit or cluster.
➍ Do not talk at length with anyone who may be exhibiting under you.
➎ Do not discuss the merits of the dogs you are judging or may judge.
➏ Do not visit the grooming or exercise areas on the days prior to or the days you are judging.
➐ Do not carry or examine a catalog until you have completed your entire assignment for the show(s) or cluster.
➑ Do not have dinner with anyone who may be exhibiting to you the same weekend or cluster you are judging.
➒ Do not comment on dogs you have judged or may judge in public forums or on social media.
➓ Do not promote future assignments or solicit entries.

Doing any of the above can and will have an effect not only on how you are perceived, but can affect your entries. Remember, as an AKC approved judge, you are an essential part of the fancy and carry enormous responsibilities. Coupled with that responsibility comes the fact that you do represent the AKC and are held to a higher standard.

Lagotto Ramagnolo, Berger Picard and Miniature American Shepherd

The following breeds will be eligible for competition in regular breed classes on July 1, 2015. The Berger Picard and Miniature American Shepherd will be accepted into the Herding Group, the Lagotto Ramagnolo will be into the Sporting Group.

Notification for all Sporting and Herding group judges to take the applicable exam(s) to maintain group status was included in the Summer 2014 issue of The Standard and sent via email in October. Judges approved for all breeds within the respective group also receive approval to judge the new breed(s) at shows held after July 1, 2015 upon successful completion of the exam and submission of the required $25 processing fee per breed.

Additional breed applications submitted for the balance of the Sporting and Herding Groups, received prior to July 1, 2015 will be required to be interviewed and a payment of $25 on these breed at the time of the scheduled interview by the office. Applicants who fail the interview by the Executive Field Representative will not be approved to judge the Berger Picard, Miniature American Shepherd and Lagotto Romagnolo, as a result, regardless of the Judges Review Committee’s decision on the balance of the group applied, applicant will not be approved to judge the applicable Group(s).

Individuals wishing to apply using the Adjunct Method must submit an application and a processing fee. Judging Operations will start accepting applications between January 1, 2015 and June 30, 2015. Those who miss the deadline must apply under the current system. Applications are available on the website or by contacting Judging Operations.

APPLY UNDER THE ADJUNCT SYSTEM

AKC approved judges who can demonstrate significant background in the breed may apply to judge under the Adjunct System. Examples of “significant background” would be:

• Experience in owning, breeding, exhibiting and/or handling the breed.

• Background in judging multiple events with a significant number of entries.

First time applicants must have 10-12 years breeding experience, take and pass the Procedural and Anatomy Exams, have judged at AKC or Non-AKC events at least six times and stewarded at least 6 times at AKC® member or licensed events.

Applicants who meet these requirements may apply by downloading the application from http://images.akc.org/pdf/judges/Adjunct_Application_06.pdf or contacting Judging Operations, 919-816-3862. First time applicant will also need to download the Procedural and Anatomy Exams located at http://images.akc.org/pdf/judges/Procedural_Anatomy_JS.pdf. Procedural Exam needs to be submitted with application.
**Color and Markings in the Boston Terrier**

Carl E. Gomes, Chair  
Judges Education Committee  
**Boston Terrier Club of America**

The Committee would like to take a moment to remind all AKC approved Boston Terrier Judges, Permit and full status, as well as those hoping to be approved to judge Boston Terriers, of the five (5) disqualifications listed in the **Boston Terrier Breed Standard**.

**DISQUALIFICATIONS**

1. Eyes blue in color or any trace of blue.  
2. Dudley nose.  
3. Docked tail.  
4. Solid black, solid brindle or solid seal without required white markings.  
5. Any color not described in the Standard.

To elaborate, **required markings** listed in the Standard include only three (3), namely, white muzzle band, white blaze between the eyes, and white forechest.

The only colors described in the Boston Terrier Standard are **black, brindle and seal**. (SEAL DEFINED: Seal appears black except it has a red cast when viewed in the sun or bright light.) Therefore, any color **OTHER THAN** black, brindle or seal, is a disqualification.

‘**DESIGNER**’ Boston Terriers in colors of red, blue, brown and green usually have a self colored nose and greenish tinted eyes. They must be disqualified.

**Requesting Regular Status**

Judging Operations has recently posted on the AKC website a revised form to be used when judges request regular status for permit breeds. The **new form** can be accessed through the **Judging Resource Center**.

Permit judges will no longer be required to complete the matrix, listing all assignments, dogs entered and dogs present. Now, judges will simply sign the forms certifying that according to their records they have met the requirements for regular status and list the current permit breeds which they are submitting a request.

Judging Operations will pull a report displaying all previous assignments and the Staff Committee will review at its next available meeting to confirm all requirements have been satisfied or if additional assignments and/or reports are required.
W
While working at a local show, I wandered over to watch the end of the Sporting Group, being judged by Sam Houston McDonald. The last dog to be examined was a very young, very inexperienced Chesapeake Bay Retriever. On the other end of the lead was a very inexperienced young man. The handler attempted to set up his puppy for individual examination with much patience but little success. The judge attempted to examine the puppy with little success, so the judge asked the handler to gait his dog. After struggling to adjust the ineffective collar on the dog’s neck and gather the ineffective lead in his hand, the exhibitor took off, albeit not the pattern used by the judge, towards the opposite end of the ring.

At times the untrained dog was tripping the handler and other times the untrained handler was tripping the dog. Yet, they managed to hit the other end of the ring and headed back towards the judge. At times, the dog tried to stop gaiting. All the while the unmanageable collar and lead would slip out of the handler’s grip which caused several pauses in the gait. Yet, these young, very inexperienced partners for this journey somehow managed to make it back to the judge. It was at this point in time that I realized something special was happening right here, right now, for everyone to experience. Little by little I realized that I could hear the silence catch around the ring as others started to focus on what was happening in the ring. Not only was the judge encouraging this team in a patient, kind, non-condescending tone, but I heard a smattering of applause from ringsiders. The judge asked the handler to try it again. And try, the team did. At no point in time did the handler lose his earnest quest to get his puppy to gait, although this was clearly a challenge for both handler and dog. There was no lead being yanked – much unraveling and adjusting of the lead yes, but never a correction. As this was happening, more sides of the ring and a couple from inside of the ring. The entire focus of those present – judges, handlers, owner handlers, assistants, club members, spectators and a field rep – was on this team. I was witness to the reason why it all matters. When someone in this dog show family needs a boost, some support, a little encouragement, even when we didn’t even know this young man’s name, we all rallied around. We’ve all stood in his shoes at some point in time. We saw that this was a struggle, yet a determined goal for both the young handler and dog. We saw the love that he had for his puppy. The entire dog show was sharing in this young handler’s experience. And we all saw what a difference it made.

I can only hope that other people recognized this little gem for what it was. It was a HUGE boost for the sport. I consider myself lucky to be a witness that day. And I realized that when everyone let their guard down and the human factor came out, that there just might be some hope.
Runner-Runner: Things you should know...when an exhibitor in your ring requests a “pinch” runner.

If an exhibitor in your ring requests to have an alternate person gait his/her dog for them, what should you do? To begin with, you should ask if they have a letter of accommodation from the AKC Legal Department. Disabled exhibitors should have in their possession a letter of accommodation from the AKC. If he/she does not, use your best discretion but we advise to always weigh on the side of the exhibitor. It is not appropriate for judges to question whether the exhibitor is disabled or not.

In addition, if the exhibitor does not have a letter in his/her possession, you should call the AKC Executive Field Representative to your ring. The Field Rep can provide contact information for the AKC Legal Department or answer any questions the exhibitor may have. If a Field Rep is not present or is unavailable, the Show Chairperson would be the next best option to call.

While it is not the judge’s responsibility to determine, any assistance handler such as a runner must also meet the eligibility restrictions for classes such as Bred-By Exhibitor, Amateur-Owner Handler or the NOHS competition. This does not apply if the primary exhibitor has simply requested aid in lifting the dog on and/or off of the table due to disability or injury. In this scenario the judge may permit this without a letter as the “helper” is not actually exhibiting the dog. However, under no circumstances should the judge or ring steward be the one to lift the dog on or off the table.

Additionally, the “runner” should have an armband on as well. Whenever a dog is being exhibited in the ring, whether it be stacking or gaiting, the exhibitor must have an armband on so the dog may be identified at all times. In the interest of an efficiently run ring; the runner would wear a duplicate armband. While a runner is not utilized often, and is something you are not likely to see or encounter frequently, the American Kennel Club does strive to provide an opportunity to participate in its events.

Per the AKC Board Policy Manual

Disabled Handlers (March 1998 Board meeting):

The AKC strives to provide an opportunity to participate in its events. In the case of conformation judging, where decisions are based solely on the quality of the dogs, a judge may modify the regular judging procedure to accommodate a disabled handler.

If a modification of normal judging procedures is required, the judge needs only to determine that it would not inhibit the ability of the other handlers in the ring to show their dogs. A disabled handler may compete using a cane, crutch, or electric-powered wheelchair. However, when gaiting the dogs as a group, the judge should ensure that a handler who cannot maintain a normal gait for the breed being exhibited be placed in line where he/she will not interfere with the ability of the other dogs to gait properly.

Vision impaired exhibitors may have a second person assist them in individual and group gaiting of the dogs. If the ring surface or terrain makes it difficult for the assisted handler to gait the dog at a normal speed, the judge may adjust where the dog is placed in line to give all handlers an equal opportunity to show their dogs. Vision impaired handlers may have the second person assist in verifying weight and measurements that may be required under the breed standard. The primary function of exhibiting the dog is the responsibility of the primary exhibitor and not the second person in the ring.

I hope this helps address some of the questions surrounding the use of the runner. Hopefully these tips will help promote a positive experience for all involved whenever the situation does arise.

Good Luck and Have Fun Out There!

By Diana Wilson, AKC Executive Field Representative
All Weather Jacket
Micro line fabric with zippered pockets, navy with tan trim and matching embroidered logo
Available in sizes S, M, L, XL, 2XL
$85.00 S&H included

“Official” AKC Judges Badge
Choose from Silver or Gold tone finishes
Available in pin back, magnet back or pocket holder
(Please specify when ordering) $25.00 S&H included

Order a Jacket and get a FREE Badge!
(a $25.00 value, FREE!)

Name ______________________________________________________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip _______________________________________________________________________________
Telephone #________________________________________________Judges # _________________

Payment Method: Check #______________or Credit Card #__________________________________________________________________
EXP_________________
Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery
Send to: Kathy Caruana  •  Judging Operations  •  PO Box 900062  •  Raleigh, NC 27675-9062  •  919-816-3862  •  kac1@akc.org  •  fax: 919-816-4225
The AKC Institute for Aspiring and Newly Approved Judges (“Basic”)

The Only Institute Approved by the American Kennel Club to Fulfill the Requirement for Judging Applicants Applying After January 1, 2009

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR SEMINAR ENCOURAGED
Ring Procedure • Evaluating Dogs • The Approval Process

Edison, NJ • Sat., March 21, 2015
In conjunction with the New Brunswick Kennel Club Show

AKC/DJAA Advanced Judges Institutes

Orlando, FL • Tues. - Fri., December 9 -12, 2014
AKC Advanced Hound and Herding Institute
In conjunction with the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship

Judging Junior Showmanship Seminars

Savannah, GA • Sat., November 29, 2014
In conjunction with the Savannah Kennel Club Show

Orlando, FL • Thurs., December 11, 2014
In conjunction with the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship

Hamburg, NY • Sat., January 10, 2015
In conjunction with the Kennel Club of Buffalo Show

Phoenix, AZ • Sun., February 8, 2015
In conjunction with the Lost Dutchman Kennel Club Show

Edison, NJ • Sun., March 22, 2015
In conjunction with the New Brunswick Kennel Club Show

Wicket and Scales Seminar

Orlando, FL • Fri., December 12, 2014
2:45-5:30 pm
In conjunction with the AKC/DJAA Advanced Judges Institute for Hound and Herding Breeds

For additional information including registration, contact Kathy Caruana at kac1@akc.org or (919) 816-3862.

To view the complete listing of seminars and to download registration forms, click here.