

**KUSA BREED JUDGES LEARNING
PROGRAMME**

ROTTWEILER SPECIALISATION

**HOW TO PREPARE THE BREED ASSIGNMENT
HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE EXAMINATION
STUDY CONTENT**

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ROTTWEILER SPECIALISATION BREED ASSIGNMENT

1. BREED ASSIGNMENT

Module 7 of the KUSA Breed Judges Learning Programme requires you to prepare a breed assignment in preparation for the actual task of evaluating breed type and making value decisions, as well as in preparation for the examination.

You will need to research and prepare the following three essays:

1. THE HISTORY OF THE ROTTWEILER: *An historic outline of the development of the Rottweiler*
2. THE ROTTWEILER TEMPERAMENT: *A description of the temperament of the Rottweiler; desirable behaviours and how a judge should handle undesirable behaviours in the show ring*
3. FORM AND FUNCTION OF THE ROTTWEILER: *How the characteristics and anatomical features of the Rottweiler affect historic and modern function.*

Guidelines

If you have completed the Rottweiler Breed Council's three training modules, you are very familiar with these topics and the importance they hold for breeding, training, exhibiting, working with, and judging the Rottweiler. If not, you are intensely interested in the breed and your experience and knowledge is undoubtedly considerable – here is your opportunity to prove it.

You will be expected to write an essay on each of these topics as if it were an article you are writing for a magazine. The length is between 300 – 800 words (between ¾ and 1½ typed A4 pages).

You probably have access to many, many resource materials, and don't be shy to use the internet for further information – just make sure the source is reliable. As you read these resources, make notes of key concepts and compare the facts you find from different sources. When you have your rough notes, arrange the key points into a logical structure and order, then start writing the essay in YOUR OWN WORDS. Never, ever copy word for word from another source. Remember when our school teachers advised us to avoid “waffling” and “padding”? Those rules apply to this breed assignment as well. You want to avoid repetition and long-winded discussions and you want to try to make your essay easy to read and interesting. Remember, an essay is not a list of points. You may include short lists or definitions if it adds to your essay, but if your whole essay is laid out in point form, it will be rejected for you to rework.

When you have finished writing, read it through a couple of times, edit your phrasing if you need to, change the order of sentences if your essay will make more sense, and remember to do a spelling and grammar check before you wrap it up.

Finally, list all the resources you consulted in a bibliography below your essay. This is to support your essay in case of controversial statements that need checking. Set your bibliography like this:

Author. Title. Page number and/or
www.rottweilersfromouterspace.com/howrottiesfly.html

A word of advice: allow yourself get thoroughly involved with this assignment and enjoy your task because of your passion for the breed – it should not be treated as a painful punishment!

When you have completed all three essays, store them in your portfolio, which must be submitted by the closing date. Assessors will record the successful completion of the breed assignment, but if the essays are seriously lacking in depth of content, you may be advised to rework them.

2. EXAMINATION

The format of the examination will be multiple choice questions, long questions and an essay – 160 marks on breed questions and 40 marks on anatomy, conformation and movement, mostly specific to Rottweilers. Read through the *Study Guide #11: Level 2 – How to prepare for the examination* to give you an idea of what to expect. (You can download this and other study guides from your portal on the KUSA website)

Multiple choice questions

See the study guide for the various examples of multiple choice questions that may be asked, eg. simple multiple choice, true or false, fill-in-the-blank, sorting, matching, sequencing and scenario questions. These types of questions may occur in the breed section as well as the anatomy section.

Long questions

With this type of question, your answer will be a little more comprehensive than the multiple choice questions and will comprise several marks per question. You may, for example, be asked to label an illustration or you may be asked to list a number of characteristics. You may also be asked to write a paragraph to describe a feature. This type of question may occur in the breed section as well as the anatomy section.

Essay

You will be asked to write an essay, about 1 - 1½ pages in length, on ONE of the essay topics you prepared for your breed assignment..... but you won't know which one until you get into the exam room and see your paper, so make sure you are thoroughly familiar with the contents of all your essays. Remember to write it in the same paragraph format that you presented your breed assignments. Lists of points will not be accepted. Remember to avoid padding.

A word of advice – take your exam seriously; it will not be a walk in the park, but if you know your breed thoroughly and you have studied the supplementary material thoroughly, you will be very successful in this exam!

What should I study?

- The breed standard..... inside out, upside down and absolutely thoroughly with complete understanding!
- Your three essays – make sure you are familiar with the content of your essays and you may wish to summarise them down to point form for easy study and recall. The information you researched and presented in these three essays will form the content for your essay question and perhaps, in part, a few of the long questions.
- The Study Guide #6: General – Anatomy, Conformation and Movement. Try, as far as possible, to relate the content of that guide to matters pertaining to the Rottweiler. You do not need to bother too much with Part 2: Coat and skin, although you are likely to get questions on the Rottweiler's coat, so make sure you are familiar with the breed standard requirements.
- The Breed Standard deconstructed. This is a contribution from the RBC. Based entirely on the breed standard, this content is rearranged to help you prepare for the long questions.
- Additional RBC modules and content (attached to this document). This material serves as a reference to the modules you have already completed. It is possible that long questions may be based on this content.

Enjoy your studies and gain the most you can from this learning experience. If you experience any difficulties with what is required, please feel free to contact the Curriculum Developer, Joy McFarlane (fleetwind@yebo.co.za – 083 458 2438) or your local PBJSC for advice.

THE BREED STANDARD DECONSTRUCTED (RBC)

1. The general appearance and proportions of typical Rottweiler (including undesirable / eliminating points).

General Appearance: The Rottweiler is a medium to large size, stalwart dog, neither heavy nor light and neither leggy nor weedy. His correctly proportioned, compact and powerful build leads to the conclusion of great strength, maneuverability and endurance.

Important Proportions: The length of the body, measured from the point of the sternum (breast bone) to the ischiatic tuberosity, should not exceed the height at the withers by, at most, 15%.

❑ **Chest Depth and Circumference** - Average depth 30cm – average circumference 3 x the depth = 90cm for males

☐ **Height at withers** **Males:** 61 - 68 cm 61 - 62 cm is Small
63 - 64 cm Medium
65 - 66 cm is Large - **correct height**
67 - 68 cm Very Large
Bitches: 56 - 63 cm 56 - 57 cm is Small
58 - 59 cm Medium
60 - 61 cm is Large - **correct height**
62 - 63 cm Very Large

□ **Weight:** Males: 50kg Bitches: 42kg (approx.)

Undesirable / eliminating points:

Dogs too long in body length.

Dogs too short in body length.

Dogs that is narrow in body

Dogs too small in height.

Dogs too large in height.

Dogs to heavy in Weight too much substance.

Dogs too light in body Weight too little substance.

2. The typical movement of a Rottweiler and what anatomical elements affect the effectiveness of movement (including undesirable / eliminating points).

1. The Rottweiler is a trotter or trotting dog.
2. The movement should be balanced, harmonious, sure, powerful and unrestricted or unhindered.
3. In a trot, the forequarters and hind quarters are mutually coordinated
4. The motion is effortless, efficient, and ground-covering.
5. With strong fore-reach and a powerful rear drive.
6. As speed is increased the legs will converge under body towards a centre line.
7. In movement the back remains relatively stable, firm and motionless.
8. The gait is free and unhindered with long strides.
9. In movement it has a strong fore-reach and powerful rear drive.
10. Front and rear thrown neither in nor out.
11. The imprint of hind feet should touch that of the forefeet, as seen from the side

Undesirable / eliminating points

General

1. Too short in the back and body length
2. Too long in the back and body length
3. Too high in the rear
4. Soft top lines (hollow, sway or weak)
5. A dog with a roached back
6. Croup sloping too much, or too short or too long.
7. East –west front feet.

Forequarters:

Narrow (close) or crooked front legs.

Steep front shoulder placement.

Loose or out at elbow.
Too long, too short or too straight in upper arm.
Weak or too straight pasterns.
Splayed feet. Too flat or too arched toes. Deformed toes.

Hindquarters:

Flat thighs,
Hocks too close in the rear, too long or too short.
Cow hocks or barrel hocks.
Joints with too little or too much or too little rear angulation.
Dewclaws.

3. The typical Rottweiler head, neck (including undesirable / eliminating points).

The typical Rottweiler head

The head proportions: The correct head proportions as seen from the side must be 10:15 or 1:1.5. Muzzle length = 9 -10 cm. Skull length 14 – 15 cm.

Cranial region:

Skull: Of medium length, broad between the ears. Forehead line moderately arched as seen from the side. Occipital bone well developed without being conspicuous.

Stop: Well defined.

Facial region:

Nose: Well developed, more broad than round with relatively large nostrils, always black.

Muzzle: The foreface should appear neither elongated nor shortened in relation to the cranial region. Straight nasal bridge, broad at base, moderately tapered.

Lips: Black, close fitting, corner of the mouth not visible, gum as dark as possible.

Jaws / Teeth: Upper and lower jaw strong and broad. Strong, complete dentition (42 teeth) with scissor bite, the upper incisors closely overlapping the lower incisors. Must have a full Dentition of 42 teeth.

Cheeks: Zygomatic arches pronounced.

Eyes: Of medium size, almond shaped, dark brown in colour. Eyelids close fitting.

Ears: Medium sized, pendant, triangular, wide apart, set on high. With ears laid forward close to the head, the skull appears broadened.

Neck: Of fair length, well muscled, slightly arched, clean, free from throatiness, without dewlap.

Undesirable / eliminating points

Head: Hound-type head. Too narrow, too light, too short, too long or too coarse head. Flat forehead. (Lack of stop or too little stop too much stop). Excessive wrinkles and loose skin on the forehead.

Foreface: Long or pointed muzzle; Split nose; Roman nose (convex nasal bridge) or dish-faced (concave nasal bridge); aquiline nose; pale or spotted nose (butterfly nose). Pink nose.

Lips: Pendulous, pink or rosy, patchy or spotted; corner of lips visible. Open or loose flews.

Jaws: Narrow or long muzzle. Narrow lower jaw.

Teeth / Bite: Any missing teeth. Pincer bite. Overshot or undershot bite, wry bite. Twisted molars.

Cheeks: Strongly protruding.

Eyes: Deep set. Also too full and round eyes; loose eyelids. Entropion, ectropion. Light eyes, yellow eyes. Different eye colours.

Ears: Not placed correctly, Set on too high or too low, ears too big/heavy, too long, too small, slack or turned backwards. Also flying ears or ears not carried symmetrically.

Neck: Too long, too short, too thin, too arched, lacking muscle. Showing dewlap or throaty (loose skin).

4. The typical Rottweiler coat/markings and skin (including undesirable / eliminating points).

1. Skin on the head and neck must be tight fitting.
2. When the dog is alert, the forehead may be slightly wrinkled however this is noted as a fault
3. The coat consists of a top coat and an undercoat.

4. The top coat is of medium length,
 - a) coarse,
 - b) dense and flat.
5. The undercoat must not show through the top coat.
6. The hair is a little longer on the hind legs.
7. Coat colour: Black with clearly defined markings of a rich tan
8. Markings defined on the cheeks,
 - a) Muzzle,
 - b) Throat
 - c) Chest
 - d) Legs
 - e) Over both eyes
 - f) Under the base of the tail
9. Eliminating fault: Definitely long coat
10. Eliminating fault: Definitely wavy coat

5. The correct dentition of a Rottweiler (including undesirable / eliminating points).

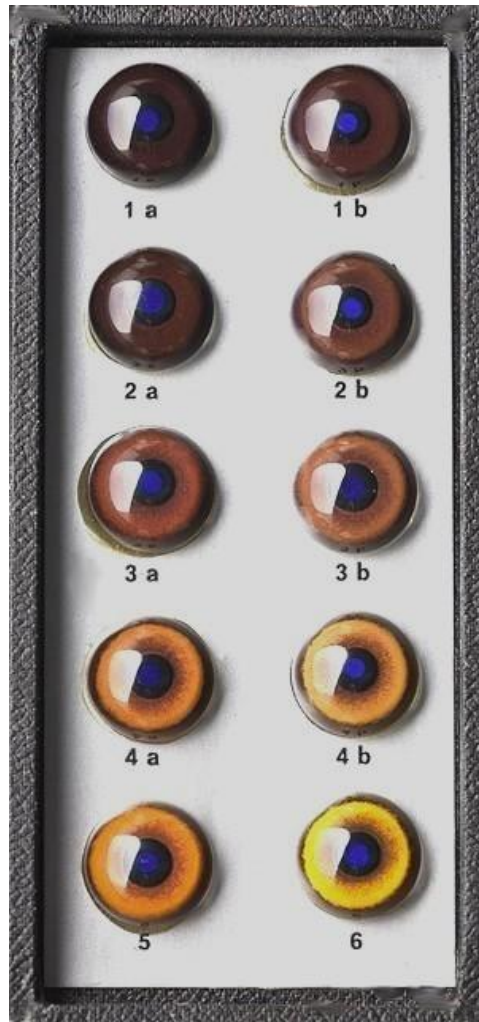
1. 42 Teeth in total correctly placed
2. Requires a scissor bite - Upper incisors closely overlapping the lower incisors
3. Six incisors top jaw
4. Six incisors bottom jaw
5. Two canines top jaw
6. Two canines bottom jaw
7. Eight premolars top jaw
8. Eight premolars bottom jaw
9. Four molars top jaw
10. Six molars bottom jaw

Eliminating dentition faults:

1. Overshot
2. Undershot bite
3. Wry mouth
4. Lack of one incisive tooth
5. Lack of one canine
6. Lack of one premolar
7. Lack of one molar

EYE COLOUR IN THE ROTTWEILER DEFINED (RBC)

The Breed Standard prescribes a dark brown eye, almond shaped, of medium size.



What is acceptable?

1A and 1B is classed as 'deep dark brown' and is acceptable (positively so)

2A and 2B is classed as 'dark brown' and regarded as the ideal

3A and 3B are classed as 'brown' and is acceptable (negatively so)

4A is classed as 'borderline'. If a Specialist accepts it during a Breed Assessment, he'll issue a warning to the owner/breeder to only match this dog with a breed partner who has VERY dark brown eyes.

4B, 5 and 6 are unacceptable.

GRADING SHOWS (RBC)

There are (for Rottweilers) essentially two types of Championship Shows - ones where the Judge simply selects a First, a Second and a Third (and sometimes a Fourth/Reserve) placing, and that's it. This happens at the 'all-breed' shows, where Judges seldom publically motivate a reason for their placings and the remainder of the dogs' owners never know whether their dogs would be regarded as excellent, very good or just good. Then there are the so-called 'grading & critiquing' shows; normally Rottweiler Specialist Shows or Rottweiler Grand Victor Shows. Here, every dog in the ring, irrespective of placing, receives a typed critique on the day of the show, plus a grading. Here is where the Judge will publicly announce his reasons for placing the winning dogs first, second, third and fourth.

For those who have been to such shows - ever thought what these gradings mean? I've taken them from the training curriculum for candidate Specialist Judges. Of course, the few notes below cannot really equip one to do so; one actually has to do three training modules which include a few 'hands-on' practical sessions with live dogs, write an exam and afterwards judge 75 dogs at KUSA shows before becoming a Specialist. This could well stretch over a couple of years.

Guidelines for the Grading of Rottweilers in Specialty Breed events:

Compiled (and updated) by past Chief Breed Judges of the ADRK, in accordance with general practice of the VDH.

Breed judges may award the following gradings to puppies below 12 months: (gradings are lower case for puppies)

Very Promising	“vv”	(German: Vielversprechend)
Promising	“vsp”	(“ : Versprechend)
Little Promise	“wv”	(“ : Wenig Versprechend)

The following gradings may be awarded to dogs 12 months and older:

Excellent	“V”	(German: Vorzüglich)
Very Good	“SG”	(“ : Sehr Gut)
Good	“G”	(“ : Gut)
Sufficient	“GGD”	(“ : Genügend)
Not Sufficient	“NGGD”	(“ : Nicht Genügend)
Non-gradeable	“OB”	(“ : Ohne Bewertung)

Definition of Gradings: (this only applies to the age groups twelve months and over)

Excellent “V”: May only be awarded to a dog which is true to the ideal Breed Standard of the Rottweiler, shown in outstanding condition and glowing, with a harmonious and balanced character and temperament and possessed of class and outstanding presence. Its superior quality as a breed specimen overshadows any minor imperfections whilst the typical appearance of its gender is always present.

Very Good “SG”: Only awarded to a dog which displays the typical characteristics of the Rottweiler in balanced proportion and in good condition. A few minor and therefore pardonable faults are overlooked, although not the morphological (type-affecting) ones. This grading can only be given to a 'classy' dog.

Good “G” : Given to a dog which displays the main characteristics of the Rottweiler, but which has visible faults to the extent that they cannot be disguised.

Satisfactory “GGD” : Given to a dog which sufficiently corresponds to the Breed Standard of the Rottweiler, without possessing the generally known characteristics of the Breed and which is lacking in condition and conformation.

Not Satisfactory “NGGD” : Given to a dog which:

- a) is not typical of the Rottweiler type described in the Breed Standard,
- b) displays a character or behaviour not in line with the requirements of the Breed Standard,
- c) is unilaterally or bilaterally cryptorchid (i.e. missing one or two testicles),
- d) possesses inheritable dentition faults or a jaw anomaly,
- e) has colour or coat faults, or displays definite signs of albinism,
- f) bites or attempts to bite the judge or owner/handler.

This grading must also be given to a dog that deviates so far from a single Breed characteristic that the health of the dog is affected, or which displays a very serious or disqualifying fault.

Non-gradeable “OB” : This is given when the judge, for whatever reason, cannot examine gait, conformation, dentition, coat, testicles etc., or when signs are apparent that the dog has been treated in some way to alter or conceal some feature of the dog.

The same applies when the judge is able to ascertain that an operation has been carried out to cover up or conceal some other condition.

In South Africa, to become a Champion, a Rottweiler must have been graded ‘V’ (Excellent) twice, under different Specialists.

At typical Specialist or Grand Victor Shows, the majority of Rottweilers will be graded ‘SG’. Second-most would be those graded ‘V’ and the least will receive a ‘G’ grading. Each contestant will receive a typed critique (description of his or her dog’s physical attributes and disposition) on a Club-letterhead, on which the grading will also be displayed.