KUSA
Kennel Union of Southern Africa

KUSA BREED JUDGES LEARNING PROGRAMME

STUDY GUIDE 4: GENERAL

JUDGING TECHNIQUE

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Note: the views expressed in the booklet are intended to serve as guideline only since the descriptions generally tend to explain one method only. Under no circumstances is this booklet intended to be prescriptive, so the novice judge is advised to experiment and settle with judging procedures that suit him/herself without infringing upon KUSA Rules and Regulations and normal judging etiquette.

THE FIVE ESSENTIALS OF JUDGING

If ever there was a question that could evoke enough vibrant energy to subsidise Eskom, it's the one that goes, "What is more important – breed type or soundness"! In reality, neither of these concepts should be viewed in isolation and neither sits in opposition to the other - the concepts work together like bread and butter to define the whole dog. The judge who awards excellent breed type only, overlooking faulty movement is just as guilty of misjudging as one who awards the flashy, rapid mover, whose mediocre breed type is somewhat suspect.

Let's have a look at the five essentials of dog judging:

- type
- balance
- soundness
- temperament
- condition

Type

Breed type is what makes a breed what it is. It is the sum of all specific breed characteristics (hallmarks) that make it different from other breeds. In order for a dog to be "typey", it must possess all or most of the characteristics as defined by that breed's standard.

The word "type" is often misused in the context of referring to personal preferences. For instance, exhibitors may claim, "the judge obviously doesn't like my type of Golden Retriever." The correct term to use when describing individual differences within a breed, is "style". There can only be one correct type in a breed, so if it is recognisable as a Golden Retriever, it has Golden Retriever type. However, it is entirely possible to find, in the Golden Retriever ring, representatives of American-style, English-style, working style, and even different styles developed by various breeders, for example – all of which possess type because they are recognisably Golden Retrievers, but possessing several different styles.

Awarding according to a particular style is also a much-debated topic. Generally, judges do prefer particular styles within the breeds, but a good judge never compromises quality and closeness to the breed standard for a style preference. So, if you see a couple of different styles in a judge's Best of Breed line-up it does not necessarily mean that the judge was "judging all over the place" – he/she was clearly awarding exhibits that he/she felt most closely represented the breed standard, regardless of style.

Recognition of breed type is absolutely essential for a breed judge, only obtained through thorough study and interpretation of the breed standards and through the ability to recognise the characteristics as they appear in real life. A typey dog catches the expert eye immediately. Have you heard the comment, "that dog filled my eye with quality"? A typey dog is a living example of everything embodied in the breed standard. A dog lacking in breed type, regardless of how sound it is or how elegantly it shows itself, has little to offer the breed.

Balance

A dog in proportion is a dog with balance. Such a dog will neither have glaring faults nor a single outstanding feature. He pleases the eye because every part of him is in balance – height to length, head to body, skull to foreface, bone to body – everything fitting and moving together properly as described in the standard. Very often, a dog with balance doesn't need a lot of pulling and pushing to get it into a good stacked position – it tends to stand four-square and solidly, whether as tiny as a Chihuahua or as large as an Irish Wolfhound. When a dog possesses good balance – when everything is in good proportion – it just looks right.

Soundness

This is the word used to describe the manner in which dogs gait. A judge's task is not only to observe and evaluate correctness of movement – and thereby weigh gaiting faults against the whole picture – but also to evaluate the dog according to the type of gait as prescribed by the breed standard. A Poodle should not move like an Afghan Hound, which should not move like a German Shepherd, which should not move like a Miniature Pinscher, which should not move like a Border Collie, and so on. There is no such thing as a generic show dog, and judges need to take the greatest care not to be fooled by flashy, uncharacteristic gaiting action or speed of motion around the ring.

Temperament

Not all dogs are friendly, tail-wagging happy creatures eager to lick a welcome greeting. Some breed standards call for aloofness, some expect wariness of strangers. Some describe an expectation for action and some present a stoic steadfastness. Temperament is as unique to a breed as its description of type, so judges ought to beware of generalisations.

Condition

It is a dog show, after all. Condition refers to the well-being of the dog – its state of being and health as indicated through the sparkle in its eyes, the condition of the coat, the amount of weight it is carrying, muscle tone – all appropriate for the particular breed, and all presented in a clean and glowing package.

READY, STEADY, JUDGE!

You've done all your preparation, you've studied your breed standards, you've memorised your breed hallmarks. Your ring is ready the way you want it, the ring steward is standing by to announce the first class, the exhibitors are lined up at the entrance – you are now ready to pronounce judgement!

Starting the class

Most judges prefer to start the class with the exhibitors gaiting the dogs once around the ring. Even if there is only one dog in the class, this is a useful practice because it settles the dog and reduces pent-up excitement or stress. This is an ideal opportunity to gain a first impression of the class and you may even be able to make mental notes of those you find excellent, mediocre or poor. If it is a medium or large breed, always encourage the exhibitor to use the whole ring and ask them to allow sufficient space between each other so that there's no crowding or interference. Occasionally, a novice handler may be confused about which side to gait the dog – be patient, advise the handler in a friendly manner, and allow them to try again. Watch out for bad showmanship, where unsportsmanlike exhibitors go out of their way to distract the dog ahead or run up behind it.

Some judges require small dogs (who take a long time to gait around the ring) to go directly to the table for examination. This would be justifiable if time is of the essence, for example if there are many dogs to judge in a relatively short time. However, do try to arrange the route to the table so that there is, at least, a fair amount of movement, if not a full circle. This action is by far not mandatory and will rely on the judge's personal preference and circumstances prevailing, and certainly must not exclude a normal gaiting pattern during the individual examination.

Also remember that a dog show is not purely for your own benefit as a judge. The people at ringside usually show great interest in the proceedings, particularly if you are new to that group/breed, particularly at the beginning of the judging and particularly during the judging of breeds that interest specific spectators. This does not mean that you're allowed to "play to the gallery", where some judges have been known to behave like a ringmaster in the centre of the ring. Take your task seriously, but be aware that people are watching, so allow it to progress in an interesting manner. You can do this by following your set procedure consistently so that spectators and exhibitors know exactly what's going on.

First impressions

Before the dogs come into the ring, the Ring Steward would have instructed the exhibitors what to do and where to set up their dogs according to your decision. If there are a few dogs in the class or if you are moving them around the ring once, now is the time to cast your eye over them collectively and gain a first impression, mentally dividing them into excellent, mediocre and poor categories.

If you are at an outside venue, it is hoped that you selected the most level area for setting up so that dogs are not standing "downhill" or showing anything less than a natural position. Ideally, all dogs should face in the same direction (mostly towards your left, as you look at them, except in the case of certain breeds that are presented frontwards or diagonally), but some judges are lenient when dogs are turned the other way in order to settle a worried dog or to remove distractions. This decision is up to you and you are entitled to request that the handler conforms to your preference.

It is rare, these days, that classes will be as large as they were a few decades ago, but should you be so fortunate, it may be necessary to divide your class into one or two groups, send one group out to rest while you judge those in the ring, make a shortlist, then bring in the other group for judging, after which you will narrow it down to your choice for class winner.

Your first impressions are about to be modified or confirmed during your examination of the dogs.

Presentation of the dog

The presentation of the dog for examination will generally depend on its size – either on the ground, or on the table. If a table is used, make sure that it is standing firmly and will not wobble as the dog is placed on it. Also check that the surface of the table is not hot after having been left in the sun for a long time. Some Clubs may offer ramps, which are best suited for some middle-sized breeds not traditionally shown on a table. It is your choice whether you would like to have traditionally non-table dogs shown on the ramp and it would also be a good idea to allow exhibitors free choice in this regard. Whether table or ramp, the purpose of showing a dog in an elevated position is to allow clearer vision of the dog as you examine it and also, because a human bending over a little dog is a very frightening thing. (Take that as you will!)

How to approach the dog

Never approach a dog from behind – not on initial evaluation and not later during your decision-making process!

1. Allow sufficient time for the handler to set up the dog where you want it to be stacked for examination. Exhibitors hate it when judges do not give them enough time to do this, so be very aware of this courtesy.
2. Take a few seconds to look at the fully-stacked dog in profile (or diagonal or front-on) to gain an overall impression of the dog's structure. If the dog is in profile, it is at this point that you will determine the height to length ratio, the layback of shoulder, the balance of fore- and hindquarters and, of course, the total silhouette.
3. Most exhibitors prefer an approach from a diagonal front, so, when you have finished looking at the overall presentation, walk purposefully – neither too wimpy nor too forcefully – towards the dog in a curve from your vantage position toward the dog's diagonal front. Some breeds, such as the Chow Chow and Shar Pei have limited peripheral vision, so you need to approach directly from the front.
4. Your demeanour should exude confidence and quiet control. Never let a dog sense you are nervous through jerky or hesitant movements and never back off in a state of nervous anxiety – some breeds like Afghan Hounds and Salukis will play up to this and that will be the end of a trouble-free examination.
5. Avoid rushing over to the dog aggressively or gruffly and don't grab the dog's head in a forceful manner.
6. As you approach the dog, greet the handler (regardless of how many times he/she enters the ring with different dogs), and ask if you may examine the dog. You may also ask the age of the dog. Insist that the handler answers you because the purpose of talking to the handler is not to strike up a conversation, but rather to indicate to the dog that the handler approves of the stranger touching him.
7. If you are judging some of the traditionally more protective breeds, like some of those in the Working Group, you may ask first if it is okay to touch the dog. You don't have to place yourself in a dangerous position, and if a dog does try to go for you or does actually make contact, you may excuse him from the ring, whereafter you need to report it to the Show Manager and sign the Judge's sheets accordingly. This rarely happens, however, since most are well socialised and accustomed to being handled.
8. Avoid eye contact initially, especially males – look at the dog just south of his eyes and set him at ease first before you examine eye shape and colour.
9. It is really not necessary to stick your hand out like a wet fish in order for the dog to smell you. The dog smelt you when it came into the ring and, in any case, it has already identified all the dogs and other items you have touched up to now. A wet-fish, slack hand indicates to the dog that you are nervous, which may even be true! If you really want to put your hand out to them, pretend you have a treat in your hand, then extend your fingers palm upwards.
10. With your right hand, touch and warmly massage the dog's cheek or neck, as you talk to him and give a few encouraging words. Your touch must be firm, without being harsh, and it should exude control and confidence. Too soft a touch is wishy-washy and could send a message that you are nervous.
11. Speak pleasantly to the dog in a reassuring manner until he settles, then proceed to examine the dog in silence.

A hands-on examination is essential, except on a couple of breeds, such as the Azawakh, where touching is traditionally not required, and the Fila Brasileiro, which is a one-man dog that won't allow touching. The eye often misinterprets the impression, but the fingers can adjust that illusion. With coated breeds, hands-on examination is imperative, while with smooth-coated breeds it will probably only be necessary to touch certain areas and feel the muscle tone, since everything else is clearly visible.

Where you place your hands, how you touch the dog, and what you touch, will be indicators for exhibitors to judge your competence. Are your touches meaningful? Do you know what you're looking for, or are you merely stroking the dog pointlessly? Competent hands check each characteristic with speed and accuracy. There's no need to prod every last inch of the dog, especially if it's a short-haired breed, but neglecting to go into the coat of long-coated breeds is negligent. Rough treatment – especially at the mouth – can frighten a dog and cause huge problems for the exhibitor in the future. An excessively light touch sends the signal that you are nervous of touching the dog. Best is a firm, but gentle, touch that exudes confidence and control.

The head

The head is usually a feature of great importance – it is the head that generally defines breed type. For this reason, the head usually contains the most detailed descriptions in the breed standard and there's plenty to look at and evaluate. Work systematically through all the features of the head in whichever order suits you. Place your hands and fingers meaningfully where they need to be to measure skull to foreface ratio, the shape of the head and skull, the length and breadth of muzzle, texture and set-on of ears, the stop, the underjaw, and every other detail. Look at the head from the front, from the top down and in profile, working in a 'check-list' order that you will have determined previously. Take note of the eye set and colour as well as the expression, and observe if the facial coat colour and markings are correct. Exhibitors don't generally appreciate having their dog's ears pulled forward towards the muzzle, unless it is required. Be gentle at all times.

When evaluating dentition and the bite, make sure you know the standard procedure for evaluating these and to what level of detail you need to examine dentition. Dobermanns, German Shepherds, Rottweilers and most Working breeds, for example, must have full dentition, so counting teeth is a prerequisite. In some breeds, like the Rottweiler, you also need to examine the colour of the gums and palate, or the colour of the tongue, as in Chow Chows. Very often, handlers prefer to show you their dog's teeth, which they will do very efficiently. Health wise, this is a sensible pattern to follow since judges could easily pass infection from one mouth to the next. In many other breeds, judges usually only open the front lips to look for a scissor, undershot or level bite (as the standard predicts) and in some breeds, such as Pekingese and a few other Toy breeds, examination of the teeth is not necessary at all. Learn the conventions of each breed and know what you need to look for. Know in which breeds missing teeth are a cardinal sin and in which breeds it's not that important. Know what problem bites look like, and be on the look-out for occlusion problems, such as impacted canines, which can cause agony for the dog.

The neck and forequarters

While still in front of the dog, check the skin on the throat – whether or not loose skin or a dewlap is required, and then extend your hand down the front to feel the prosternum and the space between the forelegs. This should give you a good idea of the chest development and the structure of the forequarters.

Then, move to the side of the dog and examine the length and set of neck. Some judges do this by placing one hand at the base of the skull and the other at the withers – this to gain a clearer vision of the neck length.

With your right hand, stroke down the neck and over the withers to examine the smoothness of the withers and where they are positioned. In some breeds, you also need to measure the distance between the shoulder blades at the withers with your fingers. From your view on the side, you ought to be able to imagine a plumb line dropped from the withers down to the ground. If the elbow and the back of the forelegs are in line with the tip of the

shoulder blade, you are generally looking at a well-laid shoulder. Use your hands to measure and examine the angle of shoulder and the length of shoulder blade and upper arm.

Run your hands down the forelegs to feel for bone and spring of pastern if required. Gently lift the feet to examine the pads underneath and take careful note of the shape of the feet, the length of nails and the arch of the toes.

The body

Test the spring of rib by placing your hands either side of the rib cage and gently pressing. There should be a springy firmness. Looking down on the body, you should examine the shape of the rib cage and then the length of loin, which you can test by marking the end of the ribs and the start of the pelvis with your fingers. Gently feel the muscle tone over the loin, but avoid pressing down too hard on the dog so that it places strain on the joints.

Feel the texture of the coat with your fingers and part the hair slightly to find undercoat. For most breeds, the best place to check for undercoat and coat texture is on the side of the ribcage, but in some breeds, like the Shar Pei, the best way to feel texture is to stroke against the lie of the coat on the back just in front of the tail. (There you go – some free specialist information, the likes of which you will collect during your studies!)

Hindquarters and tail

Standing behind the dog, examine the lay of croup with your hands and the set of tail. Beware of pulling tails into strange positions – you must never uncurl a curly tail and it is totally unnecessary to pull a tail under the dogs body to make it reach the hip bone. Most breed standards expect a long tail to reach to the hock, but you would not do this to, say, an Afghan Hound's tail.

If it is a male, quickly and deftly feel the testicles. They should both be there and apparently normal. Don't dilly-dally in this area!

Run your hands down the thighs to feel for good muscle tone and take note of the bend of stifle, especially in coated breeds where you may need to part the hair. Check the length and strength of hock and, finally examine the hindfeet in the same way you did the forefeet.

Once the hands-on examination is finished, you will probably want to step back and look at the total picture again. Then, you are ready to gait the dog.

Evaluating the gait

Gaiting is the confirmation of the hands-on examination. A faulty structure of the front assembly, for example, will be confirmed with restricted movement in profile. Unbalanced angulation between front and rear will show up in uneven movement, and so on.

While it is valuable to examine how a dog comes and goes, bear in mind that not all dogs will do it in the same way, so don't look for generic perfection. It is also rather unfair to fixate on the away-and-back, since moving in a dead straight line is governed by many circumstances, one of which is the inability to tell the dog to do so flawlessly. Relying on away-and-back movement exclusively indicates a tendency to fault-judge – grossly unfair in view of the fact that the "fault" may only be a turn of the leg because the dog was distracted. The side gait is considered by experienced judges to be of greater importance because, in one go-around, you are able to evaluate breed type and temperament, balance in the whole outline, strength of topline on the move, head carriage, tail carriage, the proper amount of reach and drive (neither under-tracking nor over-tracking), and confirm all of this with the characteristics you have just discovered in the hands-on examination. A good handler knows how to stack a dog beautifully, but when it is on the move, the dog gets to show what it's really made of.

Some judges like to request a triangle so that they can see all sides of action, while some prefer a straight up and down (away and back), followed by once around the ring. Best you select the most often-used gaiting patterns – you will get some very puzzled expressions if you ask for a T-pattern or a reverse-L! Try to choose the gaiting pattern most practical for the group you are judging, for instance, you may prefer to request a triangle for smaller breeds and an away-and-back plus circle for the larger breeds, but essentially this is your choice. Try to avoid requesting all the gaiting patterns or more circuits than are absolutely necessary, and be mindful of very hot or rainy weather, both of which place strain on the gaiting dog and handler. If a dog is playful or unsettled, allow the handler to try a gaiting pattern again. Be fair, but with discretion.

Be aware of particular gaiting requirements of specific breeds and adjust your pattern accordingly. German Shepherds, for example, traditionally start a circle at the walk, then build up to a trot and gait at least twice around the ring. Trotting dogs move differently to galloping dogs – know which is which and what defines them as such. With a practiced eye, for example, you'll note that a trotting dog, like an Australian Shepherd, will probably move away and back flawlessly every time, but a galloping dog, like a Saluki or Azawakh, may move less than perfectly true away and back because of their steeper angulation and looser action. Old English Sheepdogs should never be encouraged to race around the ring lickety-split; you want to see that delightful roll, which is only evident at an amble or slower speed. The secret is to know what you're looking for and request the most appropriate gaiting pattern to be able to see it.

Evaluating gait is one of the most difficult tasks to get right. It takes lots of practice and extra research. Don't be afraid to discuss the gaiting of dogs with experienced breeders and judges.

Sorting the class

When all the dogs have been equally judged, it's time to find your class winners. If there's only one exhibit in the class, no decision is necessary, but if there are several exhibits, it's crunch time! During the individual examinations, you would already have made a few mental evaluations, and you are likely to have already identified your class winner. Some judges like to place the exhibits in order of selection, then gait them around the ring together and announce the placings. This has benefit in that the spectators can follow what you are doing. Some judges like to make shortlists, but you can only really do this in very large classes. Some judges can organise their choices in their minds and announce the placings from a random line-up, but this is seldom possible in a large class.

If you fear that you may forget what you observed during the individual evaluation, you can make a few notes in a small notebook, and some judges like to award a varying number of stars as they work through the class. If you need to take another look at, for example, dentition, call all the exhibits back to your judging position and examine the mouths of all the dogs. Why? Imagine how the tongues will wag if you place a dog (or don't place it) immediately after examining one characteristic on one dog! If you need to re-examine a table dog, the dogs must come back to the table – never, ever fold yourself over a small dog in a stacked line-up. You may wish to walk up the line closely to have another look at expression, but avoid walking back down the line from back to front. If you feel the need to move the dogs again, say in a circle, send around a few at a time. No judge can successfully compare the movement of a large class simultaneously. When judging a class of mixed breeds, avoid the tendency of moving them all together – it almost always ends up in disorganised chaos with large dogs tripping over or waiting for small dogs, to say nothing of the stop-start action inevitable in a crowded ring. At ringside, a sure sign for exhibitors that a judge is disorganised or a novice is when they move the whole group around the ring together! Beware.

When the dogs are lined up in front of you, the handler's skill and the dog's attentiveness will play a strong influence in your decision. Try not to be fooled by flash – remember the characteristics you found, and stick to your gut feeling. All things being equal, at this point it's useful to recall the order of the five essentials of breed judging and place your exhibits accordingly:

- type
- balance
- soundness
- temperament
- condition

Not every judge will agree with this notion, naturally, which accounts for the different placings of dogs made by different judges.

Difficulty arises when all or most of the dogs in the class are very similar – none of them stand out as being completely correct or completely incorrect.. Your decision is dependent on your knowledge and interpretation of the breed standard, your observation skills and your experience. The latter will develop with time, so if you feel disturbed with your first few attempts at decision-making, don't worry excessively. Just try a little harder next time and know that experience will increase. Try to make your decision as quickly as you can – remember time is marching on and you don't want to send a message to the exhibitors that you can't make up your mind. And never tell them that!

Making your placings

(Please consult the procedures outlined in Study Guide 5: Rules and Regulations with regard to awarding classes, CCs, Best of Breed, Best Puppy, Group and Best in Show awards.)

Make up your mind as quickly as you can and try to avoid excessive additional judging or gaiting. At class level, most judges indicate class winners with a single finger, double finger, three fingers or four fingers held out, while simultaneously declaring “First”, “Second”, “Third”, “Fourth”.

When awarding Challenge Certificates, you will have the winners of all the same-sex classes from which to choose your CC winner. Remember that Baby Puppies and Neutered Dogs are not eligible for CCs or BOB. If there is a rosette, the usual is to walk over and hand the rosette to the exhibitor, “CC awarded”. Before you decide on your RCC winner, remember that the second-placed dog in the winner’s class must be brought in again to contest for the RCC. You are entitled to withhold a CC if you feel that there is insufficient quality, but if you do so, you must also withhold the RCC.

Best of Breed must be judged before all other classes in the order requested by the Club. The Best of Breed line-up will potentially comprise both CC winners and both winners of the restricted class (ie. champions). Similar to the procedure for CCs, when you have awarded Best of Breed, you need to call in the RCC winner or second in the champions class to contest the Reserve Best of Breed. If there are no CC winners or champions, you may not award Best of Breed.

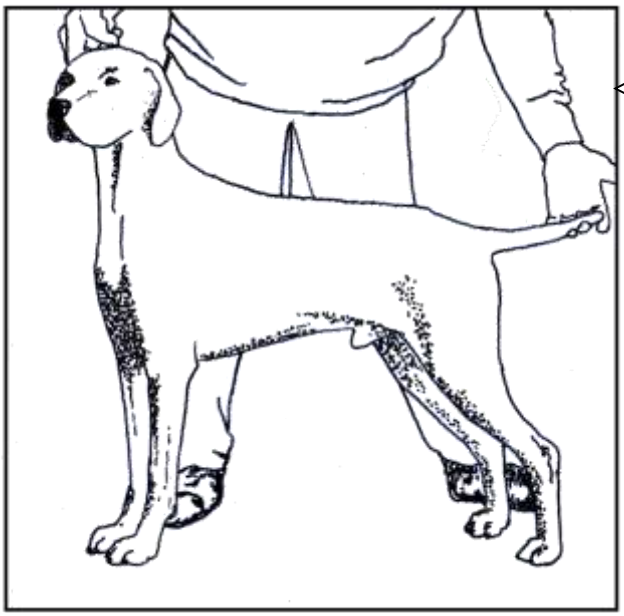
When judging the Group, you may wish to draw a shortlist of potential winners. If you do so, take care to announce that you will be pulling a shortlist, but that it will be in random order, lest exhibitors believe that first pulled forward means first-placed. If you need to place 4 dogs, it is unwise to shortlist more than about 8 dogs, but never 5 (which would mean that one unplaced exhibitor will be left standing). Call them to the centre of the ring and politely excuse the rest of the exhibitors, with thanks for their entry.

Most judges prefer exhibitors to take their places at the place markers, from where their numbers will be marked in the judge’s sheets and signed by the judge. In Group judging, most exhibitors prefer announcements to be made in reverse order, and in this case, you can stand ready at the place markers to congratulate the winners and hand over prizes as the Ring Steward makes the announcement. Remember to thank the Ring Steward, preferably at the same time that the Steward announces thanks just before the final awards.

Finally, if the Ring Steward has been recording your placings, you need to check that all is correct and you must endorse them as such. Remember, the recording of results is your responsibility so, even if the Ring Steward may help in this regard, ultimately, you are responsible for any errors, so best you check each placement carefully before signing.

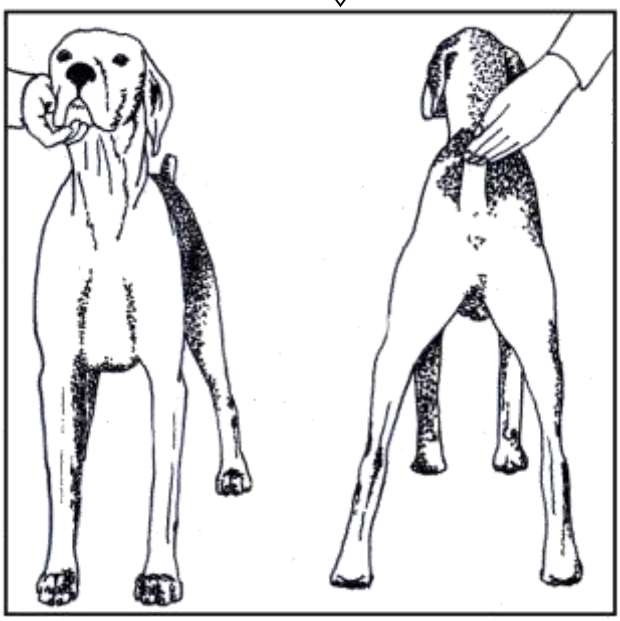
Then, gather together all your belongings and the ring equipment, thank your Ring Steward again, privately, and make your way back to the Clubhouse for a well-deserved rest and some refreshment. Well done!

As buoyant as you will be feeling at this stage, avoid discussing the merits and demerits of the dogs you judged. It’s not fair to the exhibitors and, to other judges, it doesn’t leave a good impression. Remember to thank the Club Committee for inviting you.

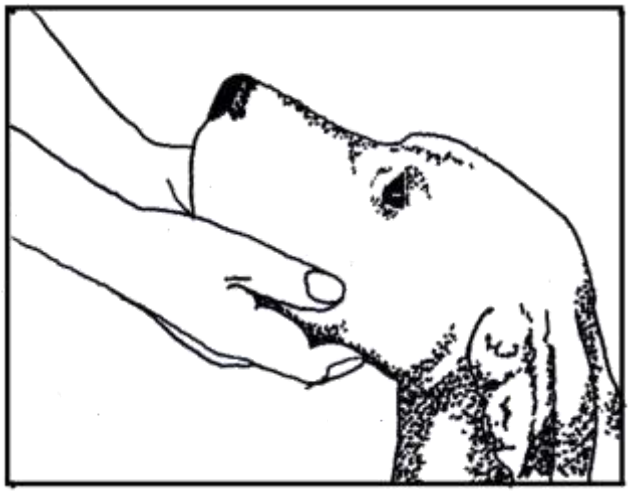


1. First of all, stand back and look at the dog in profile as it is presented to you in the stack.

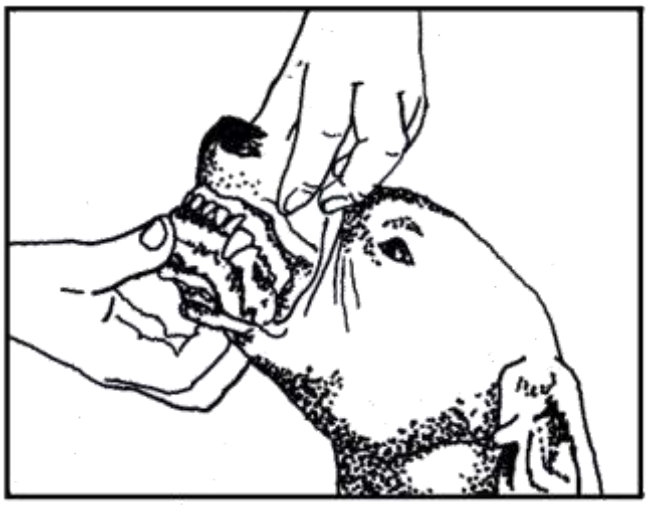
2. Look at the dog's front view and hind view (the latter usually when you move to that side during your examination)



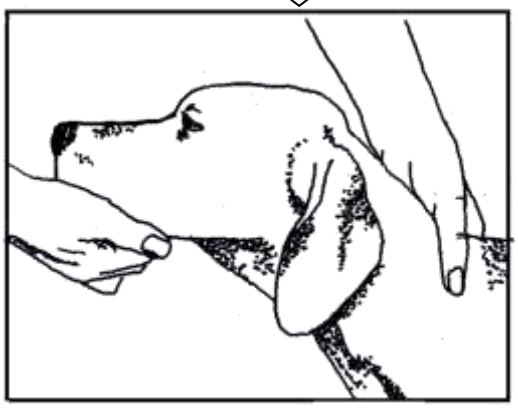
3. Cradle the dog's head in your hands and examine the features of the head according to the standard.



4. Gently lift the dog's lips to examine the bite and dentition or ask the handler to do so.



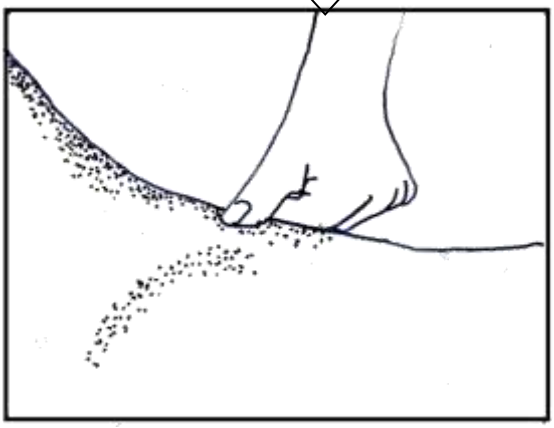
5. Look at the head in profile, and check the throat and neck.



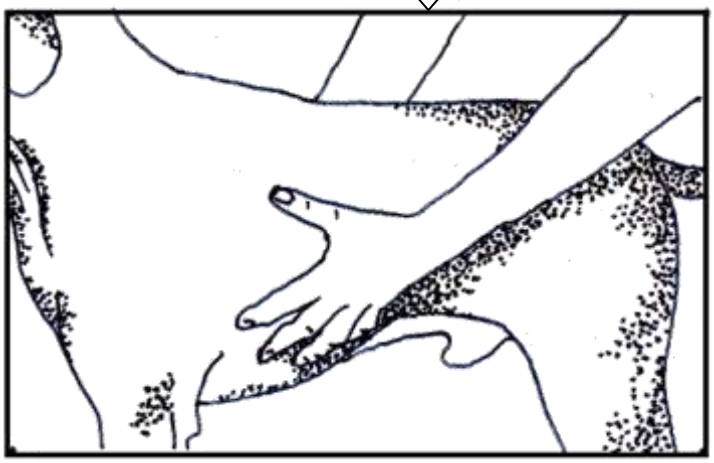
6. Run your hand down the front to check prosternum and width of chest.

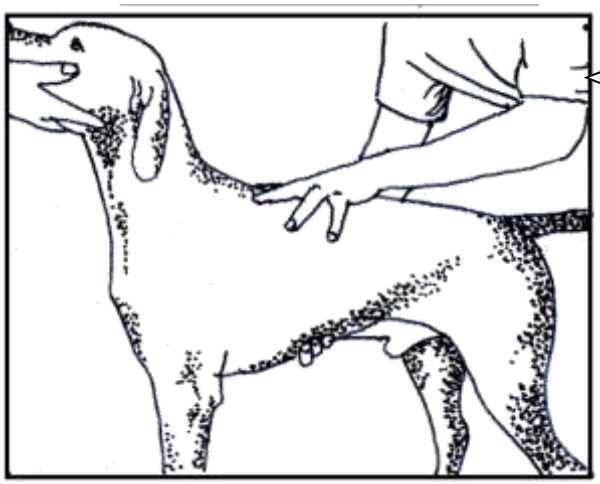
7. Feel for bone in the forelegs, then turn the foot up to examine the pad and size of foot. Take note of shape, nails and arches.

8. At the withers, check the layback of shoulders and the width between shoulder blades.



9. Feel the spring of rib by gently applying pressure with hands either side of the rib cage. Feel here for coat texture and undercoat.

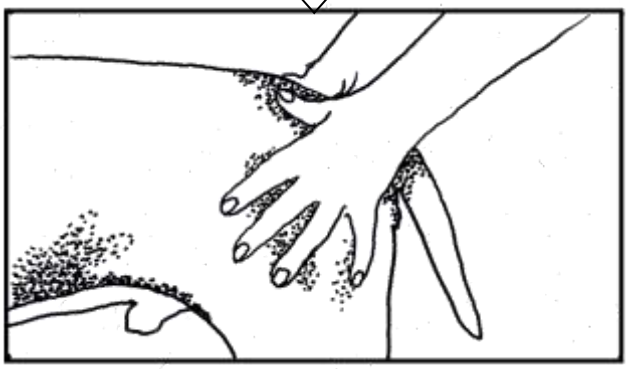




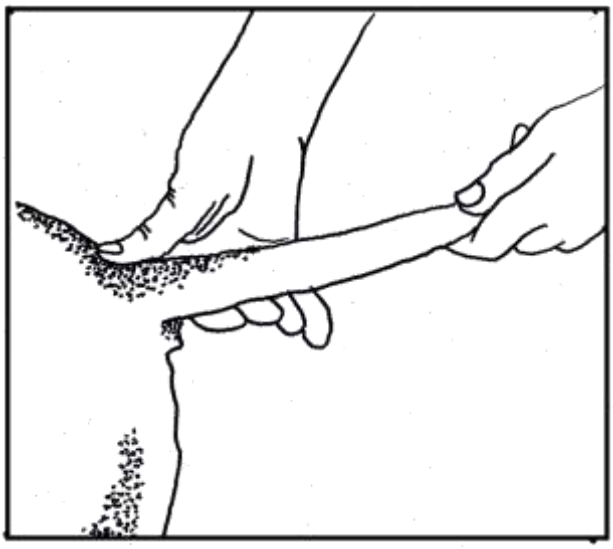
10. Feel the muscle tone over the back and loin.

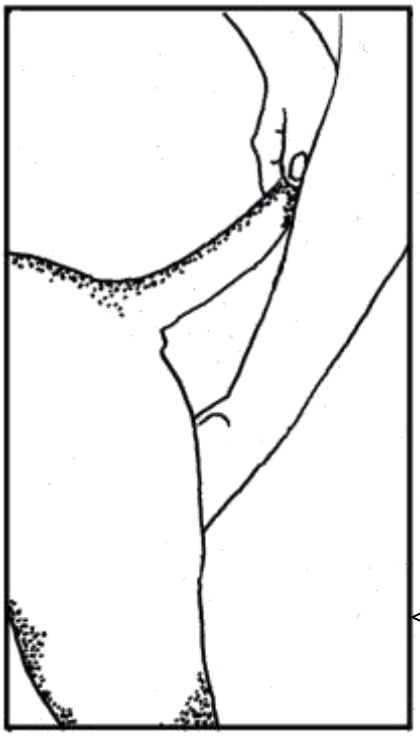
11. Measure the length of loin by marking the end of the ribs and the pelvis with your fingers.

12. Check the lay of croup, the tail set and the development of the pelvis muscles.

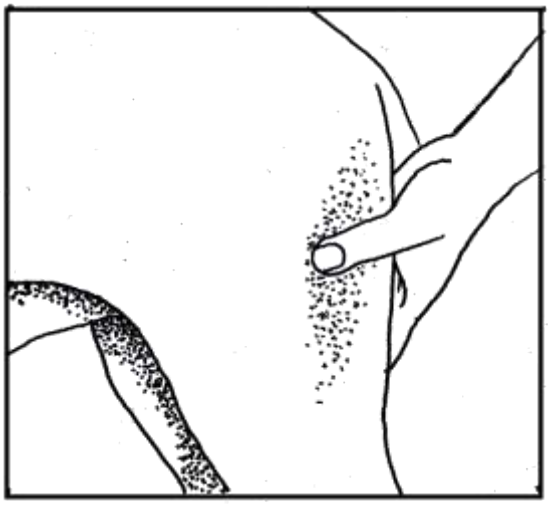


13. Check the tail length, shape and width and any particular characteristics. Also check for kinks, hooks or other abnormalities



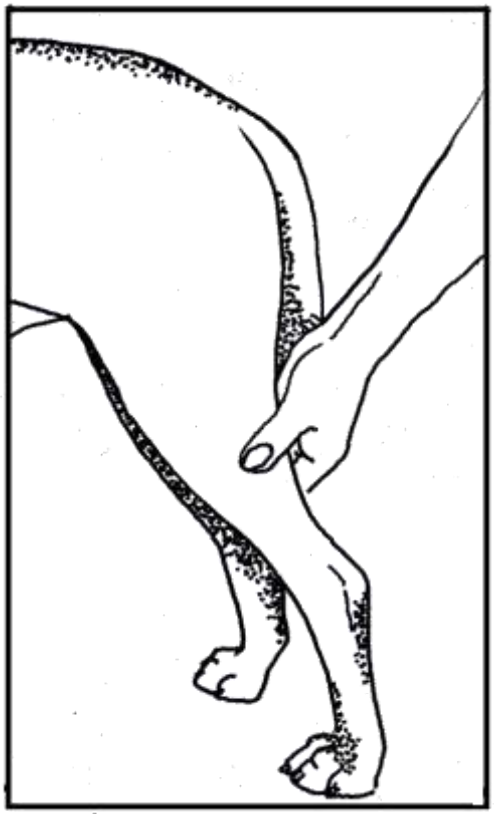


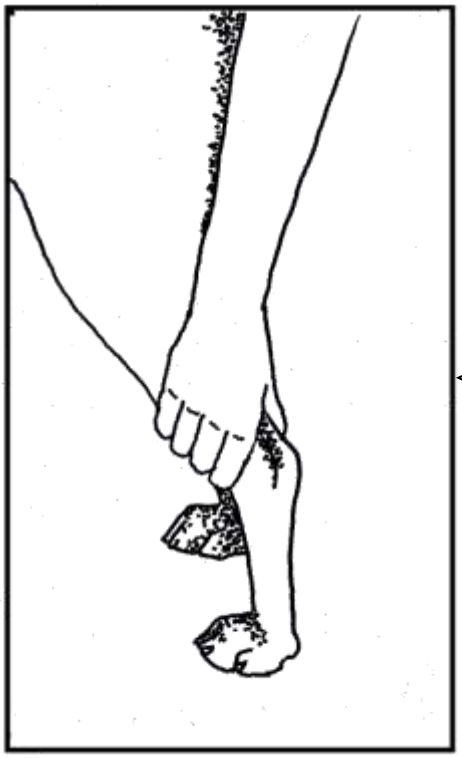
14. In males, check for apparently normal testes – quickly and with care!



15. Feel for muscle tone in the upper thigh.

16. Feel the muscle development in the second thigh.

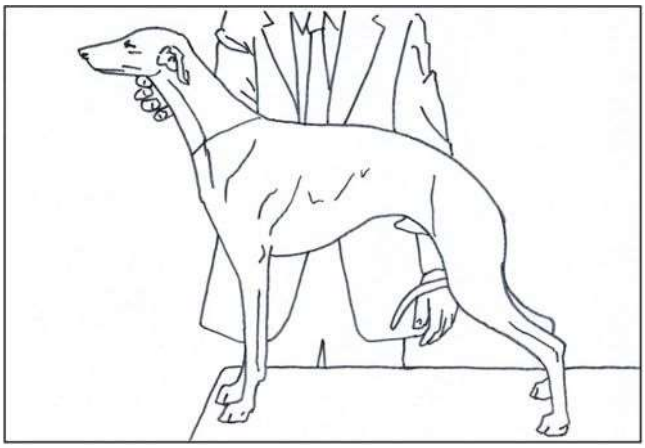




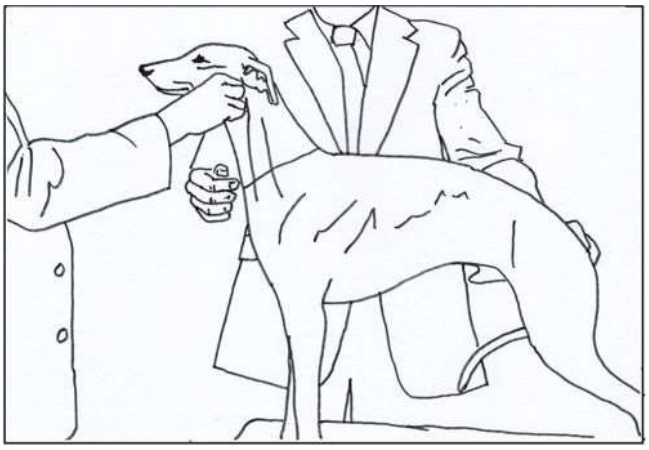
17. Check for low and firm hocks, then examine the hindfeet.

Note: These illustrations depict one method of going over a dog and the descriptions are somewhat generic. There are other, slightly different, methods of examining a dog, and cognisance should be taken of particular breed hallmarks that also have to be checked, eg. double dew claws in the Pyrenean Mountain Dog, the ridge on a Rhodesian Ridgeback, etc.

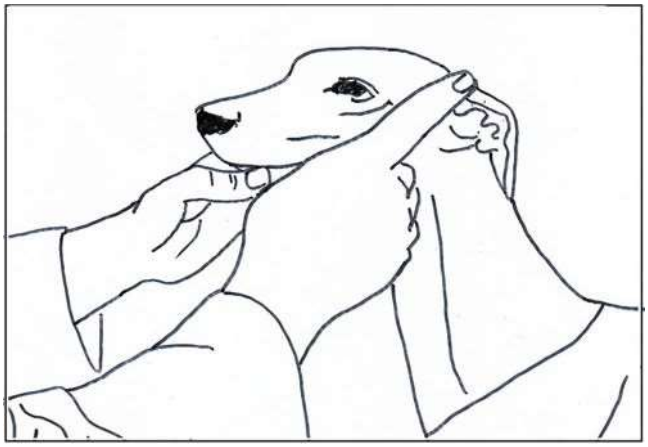
Here follows another, slightly different, method of going over a dog.



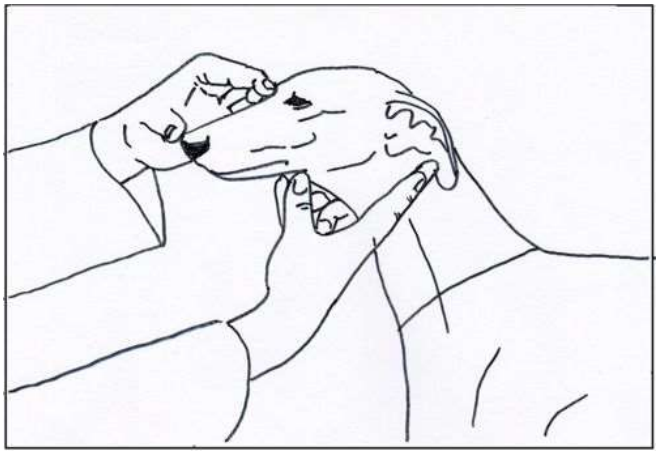
1. Take a moment to look at the overall balance of the dog.



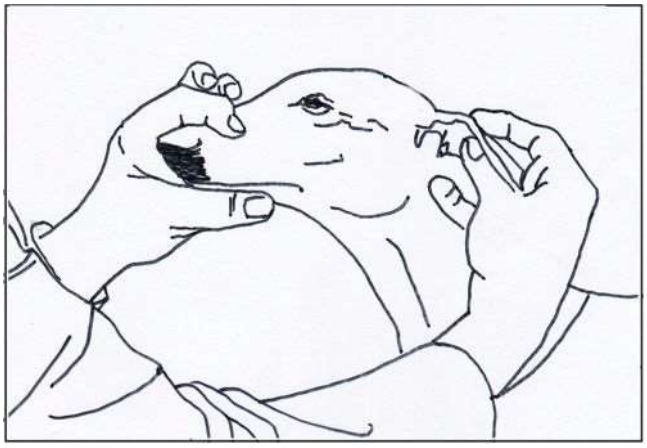
2. Approach the dog by stroking it on the chin or neck and speak to the handler.



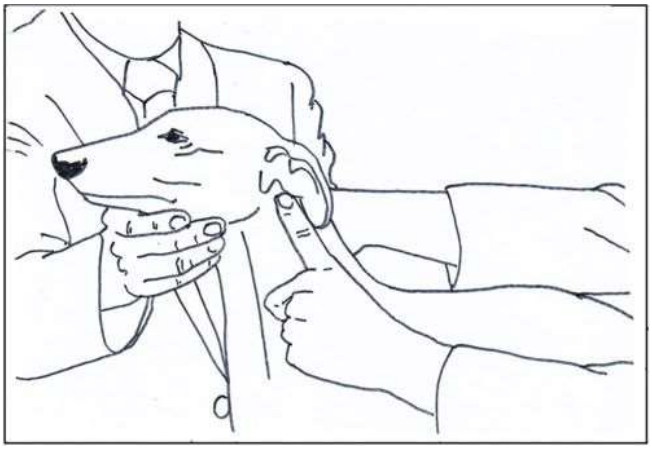
3. Use your hands to outline the shape of the head to sharpen your observation.



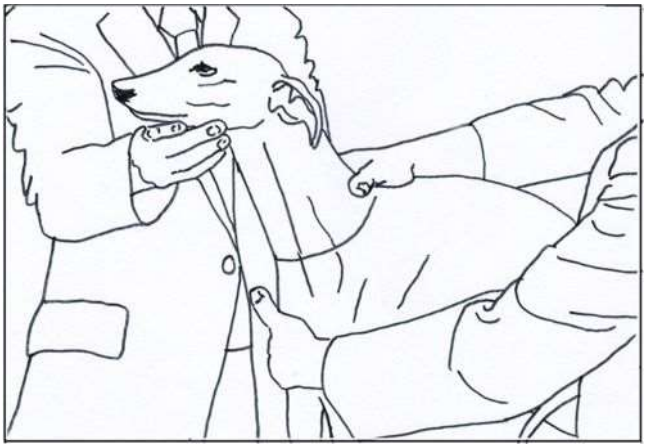
4. Measure the skull to muzzle ratio, then examine each part of the head thoroughly.



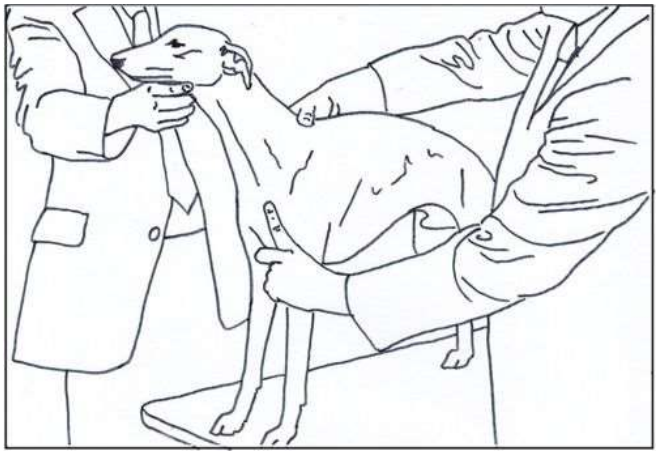
5. Check the ear leathers for texture.



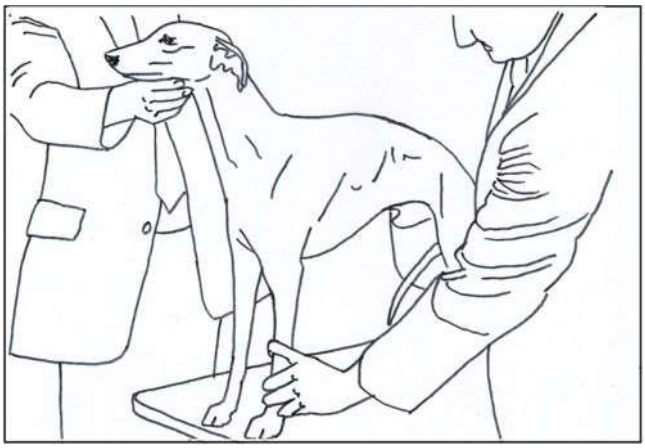
6. Use your fingers to span the neck so that you can check its length



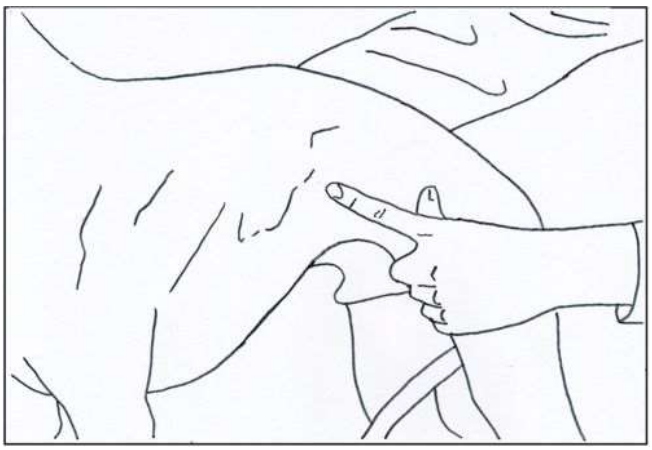
7. Feel the prosternum and measure the width of the chest between the forelegs.



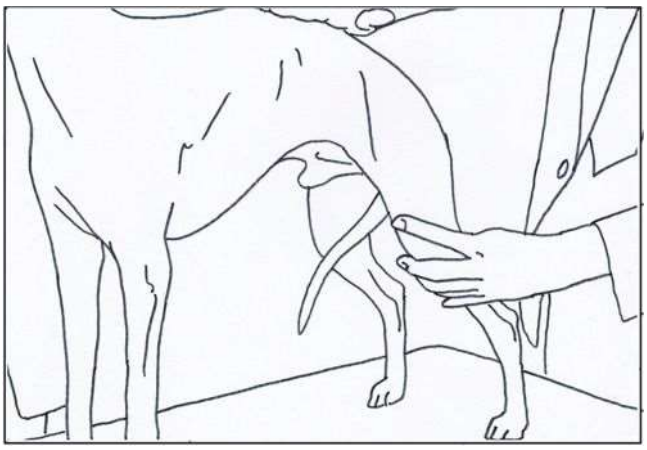
8. Check the position of the withers and measure the length and angle of the shoulder blade and upper arm.



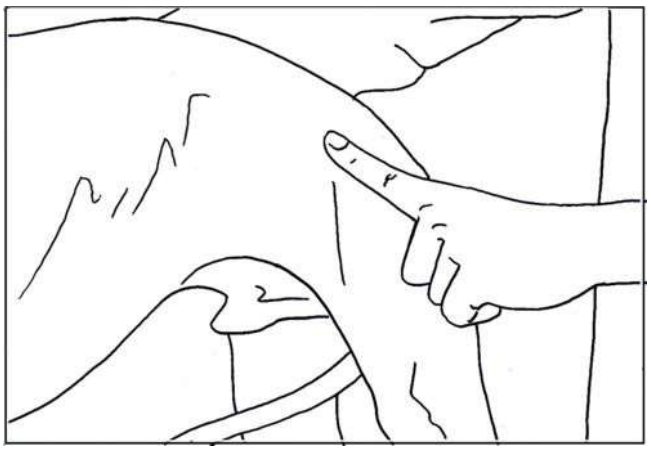
9. Feel the foreleg for bone and check the feet and pasterns.



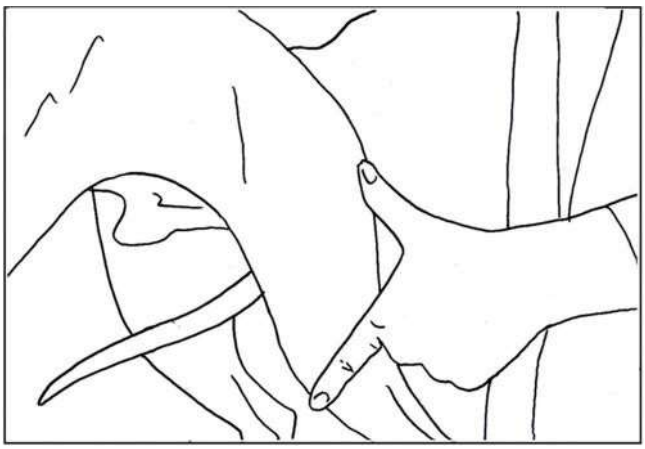
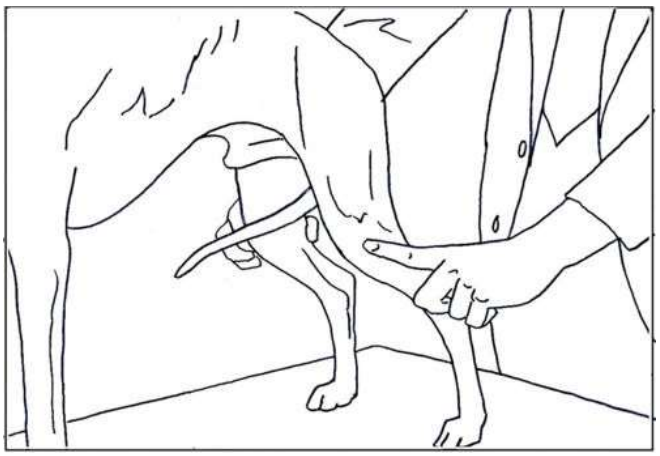
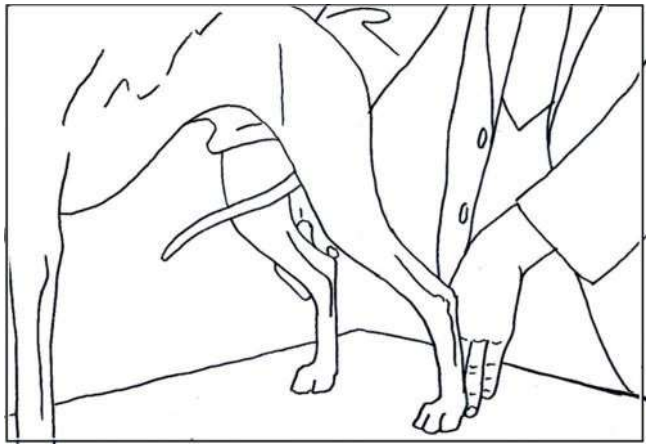
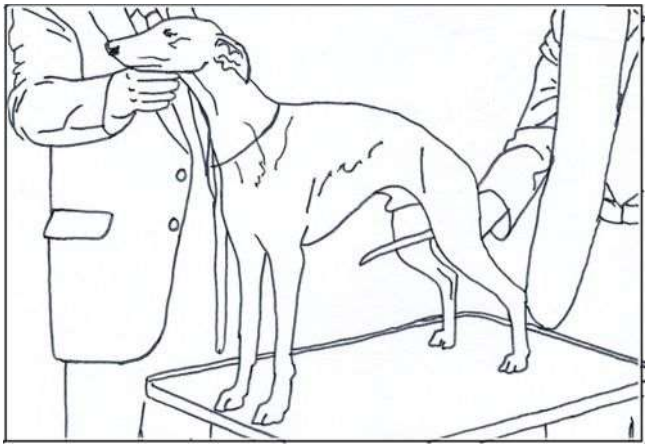
10. Measure the length of loin by placing your finger at the last rib and your thumb at the pelvis.



11. Steady the leg with your left hand and measure the angle of the croup with your right hand.



12. Check the angle of the hindquarters by placing thumb and forefinger on the opposite edges of the pelvis.

	
13. Swivel your thumb while still in contact and find the end of the bone at the stifle joint.	14. Compare the length of the lower thigh with that of the upper thigh, and estimate turn of stifle.
	
15. Check the angle and length of the rear pastern.	16. Check the testes in males and view the dog's stance from behind.

Group, Best in Show, and Variety Challenge judging

The late Raymond Oppenheimer (Ormandy Bull Terriers) held a fascinating notion that the current system of judging was "upside-down". He maintained that a person who showed an interest in judging ought to be put into the Best in Show ring first. There, the judge would be confronted with the cream of the crop from each group and he/she would have the perfect opportunity to see dogs of high quality. The novice judge's decision would be neither here nor there and no harm can be done to the respective breeds. From there, Mr Oppenheimer advocated judging at Group level, and only with a lot more experience on board, be allowed to judge at breed level! This, Mr Oppenheimer maintained, was where the greatest skill lay and where decisions could have the greatest influences on a breed.

This notion is hardly likely to take ground in any system around the world, but it does remind one of the importance of quality judging at breed level and the reality that, at Group and Best in Show level, the end result is invariably based on personal preference. Since variety judging at dog shows – together with all the accolades associated thereto – is not likely to disappear, best we make choices as wisely as we can.

It is impossible to compare apples with pears or Poodles with Salukis, so the main task for judges is to find the dog that most closely represents its breed standard. This is not necessarily an easy task, especially in the light of certain breeds possessing more glamour and "flash" than other breeds. Consider, for example, two dogs presented for your decision – an Afghan Hound and a Boston Terrier. Ironically, both dogs possess a "style of high order" (as required by their respective breed standards), and both are excellent examples of their breed – which one would you choose? And if there are thunderous cheers for one and next-to-nothing for the other, will that influence you?

So, it's starting to look as though Raymond Oppenheimer's notion was, perhaps, a little fanciful. A Group Judge must have good knowledge of all the breed standards in that group, and a Best in Show Judge, must have good knowledge of, at least, most of the breed standards. Anything other than that is simply a case of *choosing* a dog, which is way different from *judging* a dog. The skill of judging involves the appreciation of correct type and structure, which you can only achieve through a thorough understanding of how the various components fit together to manifest in a living, breathing, moving animal of quality, and how closely it arrives at your picture of perfection.

You may have the opportunity to judge a Variety Challenge – a special 'fun' class outside of the normal breed classes, such as "Best SA Bred", "Best Import", "Best Brace", and so on. These are usually multi-breed competitions, so you'll be judging each breed against its own breed standard. At some Specialty Shows, it is common for Clubs to offer challenges such as "Best Gait", "Best Head", "Best Tail", etc, and in this case you need to divorce every other characteristic than the one under comparison, ie. the gait, the head, the tail, etc. Challenges such as these are usually relaxed and informal events, held after the completion of Best in Show, in an effort to offer additional opportunities for exhibitors and dogs who may not necessarily find themselves regularly in the top-winning positions.

Group and Best in Show competitions - These have free entry and are built from the winners at various levels, ie. all Best of Breeds qualify to compete for the Group Final. The winner of the Group competes in the Best in Show Final. A similar hierarchical competition exists for puppies, who ultimately compete in Best Puppy in Show, and many Clubs also offer Best Junior, Best Veteran as well.

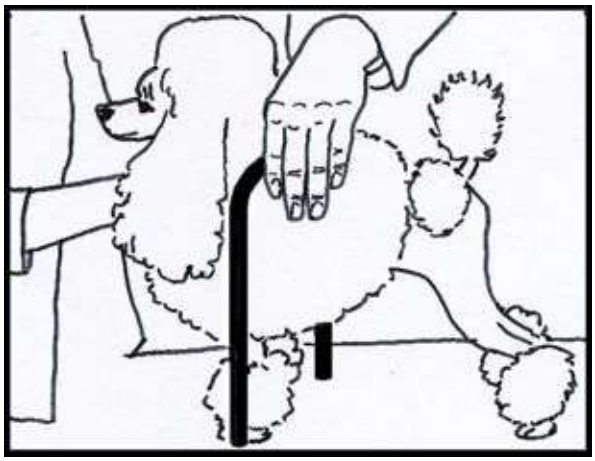
Weighing

Currently, the only variety of breed that must be weighed in South Africa is the Miniature Dachshund (Long-haired, Smooth-haired and Wire-haired). It is the Club's responsibility to provide an assized scale at the Hound ring and it is the judge's responsibility to ensure that it is in good and correct working order. If the old-fashioned balance type is used with the standard weights on one side, make sure that the stabilising peg has been removed otherwise you will put a smile on the owners of overweight Dachshunds, but generate a severe scowl on the faces of the rest!

The scale must be placed on a firm table surface. At the start of each class, each exhibitor first places the little dog on the scale before moving into the ring. The judge must observe that the exhibitor's hands do not interfere with the scale, nor should the exhibitor be allowed to string up the little dog by its lead in an attempt to reduce a few grams. Miniature Dachshunds must weigh in at 5kg or less. A weight measurement over this is NOT a disqualification – it is a fault like any other and must be treated as such in your final decision. You need to mark the judge's sheets to that effect and continue to judge the class as normal. All things being equal in the class, an overweight Dachshund should not beat a Dachshund of the correct weight. But, if the judge finds that the overweight dog possesses more quality than those presented in the class, an award may be made to that dog at the judge's discretion.

Measuring height

This is a contentious issue that most judges prefer to avoid, but there will be occasions when you may question the height of an exhibit and need some form of measure to help you make up your mind. Clubs ought to provide measuring wickets, also often called "Poodle hoops". Whether or not you choose to use them, you need to know the correct way to do so.



1. Make sure that the hoop you choose to use is the correct height for the measurement you need.
2. Allow the exhibitor to set up the dog on the table in a normal stacked position and take care that the exhibitor doesn't try to move the dog's front assembly forward in an attempt to lower the topline.
3. Hold the hoop ready behind the dog's hindquarters and your other hand on the dog's withers to establish the point of measurement.
4. Smoothly and gradually, bring the hoop into position from the hindquarters over the tail and hindlegs, without bumping it against the dog, which may give it a fright.
5. Both legs of the hoop must touch the surface of the table at the level of the withers for the dog to measure within the required height.
6. Try to perform the whole exercise swiftly and deftly to avoid unnerving the dog.

There will come a time when you have several group qualifications under your belt and an invitation will arrive to judge overseas. As blasé as the "old hands" will pretend to be about such things, it promises to be an extremely thrilling experience ahead. And, as you collect many more overseas appointments in coming years, your very first assignment will remain embedded in your memory as one of the most exciting, incredible, fulfilling, challenging, and exhausting experience ever.

Group classifications

One of the first main differences you will encounter is that kennel Clubs around the world may have different group classifications to those to which we are accustomed in South Africa. Of the over 90 kennel Clubs in the world, most follow the conventions and group classifications of the Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI), and only a few follow their own group classifications. Take a look at this comparison table group classifications in a sample of the countries that do not follow the FCI classification:

SOUTH AFRICA	AUSTRALIA / NZ	BRITAIN	INDIA	USA / CANADA
Gundog	Sporting	Gundog	Gundog	Sporting
Herding	Working	Pastoral	Pastoral	Herding
Hound	Hound	Hound	Hound	Hound
Terrier	Terrier	Terrier	Terrier	Terrier
Toy	Toy	Toy	Toy	Toy
Utility	Non-sporting	Utility	Utility	Non-sporting
Working	Utility	Working	Working	Working
				Miscellaneous

In addition, some breeds we may be accustomed to seeing in a group in South Africa, may not necessarily be classified in the equivalent group in other countries. For example, the Great Dane is in South Africa's Working Group, but is shown in the Non-sporting Group in Australia. Miniature Schnauzers are shown in the Terrier Group in America, and Toy Poodles and Shih Tzu compete there in the Toy Group. This may pose a few problems with regard to your group qualification, but the Australia National Kennel Council, for instance, will allow you to judge that group if you are qualified to judge at least 75% of the breeds in South Africa. This does not necessarily hold for all countries, however, so individual allowances must be considered before making a commitment. To see the breeds classified in the respective groups, you are advised to visit the website of the relevant kennel Club if there is an interest in judging overseas.

Advance preparation

International invitations mostly arrive far in advance of the appointment. After you have been approached by the Club to request your services, you should return your acceptance in writing as soon as possible. The Club then contacts KUSA to acquire a clearance letter, confirming the breeds and groups you are qualified to judge. This is a direct communication between the Club and KUSA and will not require any input from you. Soon, you will receive a contract from the Club, which you need to sign and return without delay. These days, electronic signatures and scanned, signed documents are acceptable, but you will probably also be requested to bring along the original signed contract with you. Take care to note that all details are mentioned and agreed upon. Caveat emptor!

South Africans require visas for almost every country in the world, these days, each of which varies in cost. Whether you work through a visa agency or travel agent, or if you apply directly to the embassy, it is prudent to get your visa sorted as soon as possible because delays may be unpredictable and could ruin all your plans. If the Club is willing to pay for your visa, this must be arranged beforehand. It is prudent to keep your passport regularly updated to avoid delays.

Flights must be arranged – usually by agreement with the Club, or, if you are accepting a judging fee in lieu of transport, you should arrange your own flights accordingly. If possible, it's advisable to arrange an arrival a day

or two before the appointment, especially if travel extends through many time zones. You will need some time before your appointment to rest and relieve your jet lag. Planning an extra few days may have to be for your own account, but given the possibility of delayed flights and missed connections, it will be worth the peace of mind to do so.

As is the nature of overseas travel, there will be at least a few personal expenses you will need to take care of, especially if you plan to spend a day or two afterwards shopping or touring. A robust credit card and a smallish pile of local currency will probably be highly desirable companions! The extent to which the Club will cover your costs will be defined in your contract. It is considered in very poor taste if you demand reimbursements over and above that to which has already been agreed.

Judging to the country's breed standards and rules

Long in advance of your appointment, you should obtain for yourself a copy of the breed standards used in the country. The Club Secretary will probably ask if you need copies to be sent, or you may need to ask. Most kennel Clubs have comprehensive websites, from which you can download the breed standards. It would be extremely arrogant for you to insist on judging that country's breeds according to the standards you know, so take the time to study them and compare them so that you are aware of differences and specific requirements.

A good idea is to take along the hallmarks you have already prepared for local breeds, with any breed standard adjustments clearly marked, and prepare lists of hallmarks, plus pictures, of the new breeds you will encounter.

The Club Secretary should probably also send a copy of the country's rules and regulations. Best you study this very carefully so that you can come to terms with judging protocols in that country. Each country follows vastly or slightly different conventions, too many to explain in this study guide, and which may be updated without notice, so the importance of obtaining up-to-date rules and regulations from the relevant country cannot be over-emphasised. You can also be expected to be briefed on judging procedures when you arrive in the host country.

JUDGING AT FCI SHOWS

Content of this chapter provided by the Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI)

The Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI) is the largest canine organisation in the world, with its headquarters in Belgium. It comprises a membership of 86 countries, including members – like South Africa – who hold national shows (where CCs or CACs are earned towards a national championship) as well as FCI shows (where CACIBs are earned towards an international championship).

If you are invited to judge at an FCI show – whether in South Africa or abroad – you must follow FCI Rules and Regulations and you must judge according to FCI breed standards. Here follow the abridged rules, as defined by the FCI (for the complete rules and regulations, see the FCI website):

FCI group classification

Group 1	Sheepdogs and Cattle dogs (except Swiss Cattle Dogs)
Group 2	Pinschers and Schnauzers – Molossoid Breeds - Swiss Mountain and Cattle Dogs
Group 3	Terriers
Group 4	Dachshunds
Group 5	Spitz and primitive types
Group 6	Scenthounds and related breeds
Group 7	Pointing dogs
Group 8	Retrievers – flushing dogs – water dogs
Group 9	Companion and toy dogs
Group 10	Sighthounds

Judging regulations

- Only the officiating judge is authorised to make decisions regarding the awarding of qualifications, placing and CACIB. In this respect, he is obliged to do so without outside help and/or interference by anybody else.
- Only judges who are authorised by their national organisation to judge said breeds may carry out judging and evaluation of dogs. While on assignment, they are obliged to judge strictly and exclusively in accordance with the FCI breed standard that is currently valid.
- The show organisers must send a written invitation to the judge. The judge is obliged to advise the organisers, in writing, about his accepting or refusing the invitation. He should always carry out his obligations to act as a judge unless prevented for an important reason.
- If the judge is unable to meet his obligations for any important reason, the organiser of the show must be informed immediately by telephone, fax or e-mail. The cancellation must be confirmed by letter.
- Equally, the organiser of a show is also bound to keep to his invitation. Cancellation is only permitted for reasons of “force majeure” or by mutual agreement with the judge.
- Should the organisers of a show be forced to cancel the event, or the judging appointment of a particular judge, they are obliged to refund to the judge the costs that have already been incurred. If a judge, for any reason other than “force majeure”, is not able to meet his obligations to officiate as a judge, he is obliged to pay for any extra costs that may have already been incurred.
- The judges should sign up a travel insurance contract (flight cancellation, accidents etc.) whenever they are invited to judge abroad.

Dog regulations

- Dogs with docked tails are to be admitted in accordance with the legal regulations of their home countries and those of the country where the show takes place.
- The judging of docked and undocked dogs must be done without any discrimination and solely in accordance with the valid breed standard**.**
- It is forbidden to prepare a dog with any substance that will alter the structure, colour or form of the coat, skin or nose. Only trimming, clipping, combing and brushing are allowed.
- It is also forbidden to leave the dog tied up on the trimming table, longer than necessary for the preparation.
- If a dog behaves aggressively in the ring and its behaviour is eyewitnessed by the judge on duty, the latter has to write a report for the attention of the organising committee and has to disqualify the dog for the rest of the competition. All the awards and titles of the day are cancelled.

Classes

The decisive date for age is the day the dog is shown.
Only the following classes are recognized at CACIB shows sanctioned by the FCI:

1. Classes in which the CACIB can be awarded:

- Intermediate class (from 15 to 24 months)
- Open Class (15 months and over)
- Working Class (15 months and over)
- Champion Class (15 months and over)

(To enter a dog in the Working Class, the entry form must be accompanied by a copy of the WCC (Working Class Certificate) confirming that the dog has passed an appropriate test as well as details about this test. The only breeds eligible for the working class are those appearing as working breeds in the FCI Breed Nomenclature.)

2. Classes in which the CACIB cannot be awarded:

- Minor Puppy Class (correctly inoculated puppies up to 6 months**)** optional
- Puppy Class (from 6 to 9 months)
- Junior Class (from 9 to 18 months)
- Veteran Class (from 8 years and over)

3. Optional Collective Groups/Competitions

To compete in these groups/competitions, the dogs must be entered individually in one of the compulsory classes.

- Brace/Couple Group/Competition: a dog and a bitch of the same breed and variety and belonging to the same owner.
- Breeders Group/Competition: consisting of minimum three and maximum five exhibits of the same breed and variety, no matter what gender, bred by the same person (same kennel name), even if they are not his property.
- Progeny Group/Competition: a sire or dam with minimum three and maximum five of his/her progeny (first generation, sons/daughters).

Gradings

The qualifications given by the judges must correspond to the following definitions:

- **Excellent** may only be awarded to a dog which comes very close to the ideal standard of the breed, which is presented in excellent condition, displays a harmonious, well-balanced temperament, is of high class and has excellent posture. Its superior characteristics in respect of its breed permit that minor imperfections can be ignored; it must however have the typical features of its sex.
- **Very Good** may only be awarded to a dog that possesses the typical features of its breed, which has well-balanced proportions and is in correct condition. A few minor faults may be tolerated. This award can only be granted to a dog that shows class.

- **Good** is to be awarded to a dog that possesses the main features of its breed. The good points should outweigh the faults so that the dog can be considered a good representative of its breed.
- **Sufficient** should be awarded to a dog which corresponds adequately to its breed, without possessing the generally accepted characteristics or whose physical condition leaves a lot to be desired.
- **Disqualified** must be awarded to a dog which does not correspond to the type required by the breed standard; which shows a behaviour clearly not in line with its standard or which behaves aggressively; which has testicular abnormalities; which has a jaw anomaly; which shows a colour or coat structure that is not according to the breed standard or clearly shows signs of albinism. This qualification shall also be awarded to dogs that correspond so little to a single feature of the breed that their health is threatened. It should furthermore be awarded to dogs that show disqualifying faults in regard to the breed standard. The reason why the dog was rated 'disqualified' has to be stated in the judge's report. Dogs that cannot be awarded one of the above qualifications shall be released from the ring with the rating:
- **Cannot be judged** This rating is to be given to any dog which does not move, which is lame, which constantly jumps up and down on its handler or tries to get out of the ring, which makes it impossible to assess the gait and the movement or avoids constantly to be examined by the judge and makes it impossible to inspect teeth, anatomy and structure, tail or testicles. This rating is also to be given if traces of operations or treatment can be observed which seem to indicate that the exhibitor wanted to deceive the judge. The same applies if the judge has ample reason to suspect operations that were intended to correct the original condition or feature (e.g.: eyelid, ear or tail). The reason why the dog was rated 'cannot be judged' has to be stated in the judge's report.

The four best dogs in each class are placed provided that they have been awarded at least the qualification "Very good"**.**

Awarding the CACIB

The only dogs which can be taken into consideration for the CACIB are those which have been awarded "Excellent" and a first place in the intermediate, open, working and champion class. A CACIB can only be awarded if the dog in question has been assessed as being of superior quality. The CACIB is not automatically and compulsorily linked to the "Excellent 1".

The Reserve CACIB is awarded to the second best dog which was given the qualification "Excellent" from the above-mentioned classes. The dog placed second in the class where the CACIB winner comes from may compete for the Reserve CACIB, if awarded "Excellent". It is not compulsory to award the Reserve CACIB.

Best of Breed (BOB) and Best of Opposite Sex (BOS) or Reserve Best of Breed (RBOB)

The Best Junior, CACIB winner, and Best Veteran from both sexes, if awarded "Excellent", will compete for Best of Breed (BOB). The judge must also choose the best exhibit from the opposite sex (BOS) next to the BOB winner, or the next best exhibit from either sex for RBOB.

Confirmation of the CACIB

The CACIB proposals will be issued by the appropriate judges. The final confirmation will be done by the FCI. It is up to the FCI General Secretariat to check whether the dogs proposed complies with the conditions accepted for confirmation of the CACIB. The cards handed to the exhibitors at the shows duly indicate that the relevant dog has been proposed for a CACIB. They must read: "Subject to confirmation by the FCI".
The FCI General Secretariat must make sure that the CACIB was correctly awarded.

The judging assignment

- A judge must be informed well in advance about what breeds and numbers of dogs he is scheduled to judge, as well as his duties in the ring of honour. It is the responsibility of the show organiser to send this information in advance and in writing to the judge.
- A judge should not be expected to judge more than approximately 20 dogs per hour and up to 80 dogs per day if the national organisation requests an individual written report for each dog. He should not have to judge more than 150 dogs per day if such a written report is not required.
- In cases of force majeure, for instance last minutes cancellations of judges because of illness, weather conditions, etc., these figures can be extended to 100 and 200 with or without written report. In these situations there must be a mutual agreement between the organiser and the judge who should be provided with very experienced ring stewards and assistants. If a judge is asked to judge more than 100 dogs the judging should be done without a written report.

Rights of judges

Judges' rights when travelling to FCI International Shows outside the country of residence are as follows:

- The show organization or the inviting Club must look after the judge, according to previous agreement, from the time of his arrival in the country where he is judging until the time of his departure; this normally includes the day before and the day after the show where he is officiating as a judge.
- A judge has to be provided with reasonable accommodation during his appointment, which may also include the night before and the night after the show, according to the judge's travel arrangements.
- Judges are free to make private arrangements with show organisers, which may differ from those stated in the "Appendix to the Dog Shows and Show Judges Regulations of the Fédération Cynologique Internationale". However, when such personal arrangements have not been made, judges must be provided with the benefits mentioned in the appendix.(Regulations for FCI Dog Shows and Complementary rules for World and Sections Shows Page 13)
- It is advisable that financial arrangements be laid out in advance in the form of a written contract or agreement between the judge and the show organiser; it has to be honoured by both parties.

Ring management and Assistants

- Toy breeds and some other small breeds have to be examined on a table provided by the organisers.
- The judge is in charge of the ring. When organisational problems occur, the chief ring steward has to be consulted and decisions are made in agreement with the judge.
- For organisational support, one ring steward and one scribe should be made available to the judge. The above assistants and the chief ring steward have to speak one of the FCI working languages, as requested by the judge.
- The stewards and scribes must be provided by the organiser of the show.
- The ring stewards must have a good knowledge of the Regulations for FCI Dog Shows as well as the national show regulations of the country where the show is held. The FCI NCO should organise special education and an authorization system for ring stewards and assistants.
- The steward and the scribe should provide the following service to the judge:
    - collect the classes;
    - check the absentees in each class;
    - notify the judge of any change of handler or any irregular entry;
    - in priority write the judge's critique, when required, in the language chosen by the latter (and communicated to the show organiser in advance) so that the judge will understand what is written. If necessary, translation of reports should be done outside the ring in a special translation area.
    - organise all the necessary paperwork and distribution of awards;
    - follow all the judge's instructions.

Judges' restrictions

- A judge should never be late for his judging appointments or leave the show ground before he has completely fulfilled the duties that were assigned to him.
- A judge should not criticise the work of another judge.
- Under no circumstances can a judge solicit appointments to judge.
- A judge is not permitted to consult the catalogue of the show before or during his judging.
- In the ring a judge must behave properly and examine all dogs indiscriminately. He should be soberly and properly dressed, in accordance with the duty to be fulfilled, and should always be correct and urbane.
- A judge cannot smoke in the ring.
- A judge cannot drink alcohol in the ring.
- A judge cannot use a mobile phone in the ring while judging.
- A judge can neither enter nor handle a dog at a show where he is officiating as a judge
- A partner, any member of his immediate family or person living with the judge in his household may enter and handle any dog of any breed that this judge is not judging on that day of the show.
- A judge cannot judge any dog that he, a partner, a member of his immediate family or any person living with him in his household has either owned, co-owned, conditioned, kept at home or sold in the six months preceding the show where he is officiating.
- A judge is not allowed to travel to shows where he is judging with exhibitors who are showing under him at those events.
- Under no circumstances should a judge socialise or stay with the exhibitors who will be showing under him. He can do so only after his judging appointment is completed.

Complaints

Any decision made by a judge regarding the qualifications, awards and placing is final and indisputable. However, complaints about the organisation of the show and about the procedure followed to give the qualifications, awards and placements are admissible and have to be made immediately in writing to the organiser of the show, followed by the immediate deposit of twice the entry fee, as surety. They must be recorded by the show secretariat. If the complaint is found to be unjustified, the surety will be kept by the organiser. If the complaint is found to be justified, the money will be refunded to the complainant.

Penalties

Infringements against these regulations can be punished with disciplinary measures. The FCI can prevent the organiser concerned from awarding the CACIB at its international events for one or more years. Such a decision is taken by the FCI General Committee after an oral or written hearing of the organiser concerned has been conducted. Any appeal against the penalty imposed by the FCI General Committee shall be decided upon by the General Assembly of the FCI as a final instance.

The FCI Show Judges Code of Commitment to the welfare of pure-bred dogs

At shows, FCI show judges are responsible for choosing and placing the best dogs in each breed and thus for allowing these dogs to be the base of the individual breed gene pool as well as the tools for selective breeding for all responsible dog breeders. Considering the major importance of this contribution to the health, welfare and development of all pure bred dogs, the following code of commitment as well as of ethics is adopted to be followed by all FCI judges.

1. General

Article 1: a. This code applies to all show judges nominated by their FCI national canine organisation (FCI NCO)

b. The show judge shall at all times comply with the FCI Regulations for Show Judges, the FCI Show Regulations, the FCI circulars regarding health, behaviour and judging of dogs as well as the specific health related rules contained in the FCI Breeding Regulations.

Article 2: The show judge shall carry out his judging of breeds in a positive manner. He must be a good representative for dog breeding and for the world of purebred dogs.

2. The role of the show judge in dog breeding

Article 3:
a. The show judge will be expected to make a proactive and valuable contribution to dog health and welfare as well to responsible dog breeding.
b. From this perspective the show judge will comply as far as possible with invitations or calls to attend dog technical activities, such as information, education and training meetings, the supervision and the holding of breed examinations and seminars.

3. Health and behaviour of the dogs

Article 4:
a. For the preservation and the further development of the breeds he judges, the show judge must, in addition to the conformation and movement qualities, consider as well the health aspects of the breed or the dog and its fitness for functionality. This assessment should be clearly reflected in his critique of the dog.
b. Under no circumstances shall aggressiveness and anxious behaviour during the judging of a dog be tolerated. They will result in the disqualification of the dog(s) concerned.

4. Judging according to the standard

Article 5:
a. A show judge will apply and take in consideration the official FCI standard of the breed concerned while he is judging.
b. He has to be aware that under all circumstances his judgment has to take into account that extreme features which can cause health, behaviour or movement problems have to be severely punished. These dogs should, by no means, obtain the qualification of excellent and/or a championship title. They can never be awarded a Best of Breed win.

5. Judging procedure

Article 6: The show judge has to ensure that the judging in his ring proceeds effectively, each dog being judged and treated equally and with respect and using the same procedure throughout his judging. A judge should treat all exhibitors in a friendly and polite manner.

Article 7: A critique given by the show judge shall be drawn up in a positive manner, the final qualification and placing doing justice to the actual critique that has been drawn.

6. Ethics

Article 8: In addition to the national and international rules for show judges mentioned above with regard to judging, the following also applies:

a. The judge cannot accept double judging appointments. However as it is the duty of the show organisers to which the judge is invited to judge to send him a written confirmation, he is free to accept another judging appointment as long as he has not received a final official confirmation.
b. If a judge has to leave the show venue before all the (judging) assignments agreed with him have been fulfilled, he has to seek appropriate permission from the organizers and ensure that he has been replaced.
c. The judge must always be respectful of the work of his fellow judges;
d. The judge must report immediately any criticism – accompanied by evidence and facts – which is not based on a positive view but is intended to put him in a bad light or to harm his reputation – to the show organizing committee.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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