

CONCEPTS OF CONFORMATION RING STEWARDING

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For Coeur d'Alene Dog Fanciers

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CONCEPTS OF RING STEWARDING

Webster's Dictionary defines a steward to be among other things, "one who actively directs affairs, a manager." That is what you will be doing, managing a ring.

Chief Ring Steward:

One of the most important members of the dog show committee. This position brings with it a diverse set of challenges; from show to show the responsibilities vary greatly. This person should have a complete understanding of the AKC's Rules and Regulations concerning dog shows and be available at all times as a resource for the Regulations concerning dog shows and be available at all times as a resource for the stewards. The Chief Ring Steward makes out ring assignments – basic dog show experience will be necessary to assign stewards to their rings. Some rings will need more than one steward, some judges will need a steward with more experience than others, e.g., foreign judges, stewards for variety groups and Best in Show. Additionally, ensuring the stewards are in their rings one half-hour before judging and that they have all of the equipment necessary for the day, i.e., pens, pencils.

Due to the fact that the Chief Ring Steward should be available to take over in any ring at any time during the dog show, the Chief Ring Steward should not accept a judging assignment for that show, or assign themselves a specific ring to cover.

Ring Steward:

A capable steward is a dog show judge's best friend. Stewards keep the judge's ring running smoothly by gathering classes of dogs outside the ring, distributing armbands, informing the judge of absentees, and having class and Winners' ribbons pulled and ready for the judge to hand out.

At many shows, two stewards are assigned per ring: a table steward to have ribbons ready and a second steward to collect the upcoming classes of dogs and keep those dogs eligible for Winners and Reserve competition standing by.

The first thing to bear in mind, is that a show committee must choose its stewards with care. Persons should be selected who are familiar with the most current judging procedure, breed classifications, and the AKC's "Rules Applying to Dog Shows." A good steward makes the work of judging easier by relieving the judge of unnecessary details. By assembling classes promptly, one will be able to keep the judging on schedule and eliminate, to a large extent, delays between classes. Stewarding is hard work with little or no compensation save the satisfaction that comes from the knowledge that the work has been done well.

While Coeur d'Alene Dog Fanciers does compensate its ring stewards, not all clubs do.

General Information

The only reason to have one or more stewards to a ring is to assist the judge in performing the tasks associated with judging the group of dogs assigned to the ring so as to provide a pleasant, professional experience for the judge, exhibitor(s), spectator(s) and dogs. It is useful to think of the ring as a room in which the judge has total control while the steward controls the door.

Principle Duties of the Ring Steward

- Assist the judge
- Hand out armbands
- Move table or ramp as needed
- Assemble classes promptly
- Advise the judge of any absentee to the class
- Keep an accurately marked catalog noting placements, absentees and disqualifications
- Prepare ribbon and trophy awards for each class
- Keep the ring neat and clean
- Contact show photographer, clean-up crews, chief steward and superintendent through walkie talkies

The first thing stewards must remember is that they have been selected to help the judge but not to advise the judge. The steward must never, under any condition show the judge the catalog or stewards book. They must refer to the exhibitors and the dogs by their armband number only.

Two stewards should be assigned to a ring when the entry is large or when one of the stewards is still learning. One experienced steward is sufficient when the entry is medium or small.

No person should steward for a judge under whom they have an entry, or under whom, in the course of the day's judging, such entry may become eligible to compete. For example, a steward who has a Labrador Retriever entered should not steward for the Labrador Judge, or for that days Sporting Group judge. If the show is more than one day, the steward must also make sure they do not steward for their next day's breed/group judges. A steward is allowed to steward for a judge who has already judged their breed / group.

Anyone whose privileges are suspended by the American Kennel Club cannot be asked to serve as a steward.

The steward should always appear pleasant, calm and professional. Clothes should be clean and neat. Dress for an office environment avoiding jeans and t-shirts. It is appropriate for the steward to be as well dressed as the judge. Remember to dress appropriately for inclement weather. Our show has rings both indoors and outdoors.

The steward should always be courteous to judge, exhibitors and spectators at all times but remember that your first priority is to assist the judge. If you are in the middle of handing out armbands at the stewards table when a class completes, you should immediately excuse yourself from the exhibitor and complete your inside ring duties before returning to the exhibitor asking for armbands.

If any question arises relative to rules with which you are not familiar, refer to the Chief Steward, Executive Field Representative or the Superintendent. Do not argue with the exhibitors.

See that your ring is kept clean. Call for clean-up promptly whenever needed.

Do not allow anyone in the ring except the exhibitors and those who actually have the right to enter the ring.

No badges, ribbons or coats with kennel names shall be worn or displayed, nor other visible means of identification used, by an individual when exhibiting a dog in the ring.

Do not make any marks or changes in the judge's book. The judge alone must mark awards in the judge's book and hand out ribbons. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES may this be done by the steward. If any questions arise about the judge's book, call the Superintendent.

When not actively engaged in your duties, place yourself in a part of the ring as to not interfere with the view of those watching the judging. Do not permit exhibitors to crowd about the gate and interfere with access to the ring.

Mark the placements in your steward's book and then check the judges book. Advise the judge of discrepancies. The club will keep your marked stewards book for one year in case any questions may arise regarding the official AKC recording of the event.

All absentees in each class must be marked in the judge's book by the judge. This includes dogs entered for Best of Breed competition.

No breed shall be judged prior to the time stated on the program.

Before assembling the next class, always check your watch/clock to ensure that no class is called into the ring before the scheduled judging time listed in that day's judging schedule.

During the break for lunch, do not leave anything in the ring.

Upon completion of judging, all unawarded prize money, trophies, trophy cards, ribbons, etc., are to be returned to the Superintendent's table. You are also to return the marked steward's book to the Superintendent's table.

Initial duties:

Stewards should arrive at all show at least thirty (30) minutes before scheduled judging time. They may be asked to report earlier. It is suggested that you bring your own pen if you have a specific preference.

If for any reason, you are unable to fulfill your assignment, notify the Chief Ring Steward in plenty of time to obtain a replacement.

Immediately upon arrival at the show, report to the Chief Steward to confirm your assignment. This is usually at the club table. Then go to the Superintendent and obtain your ring bag containing the ring equipment. This includes, stewards book,

catalog, ribbons, armbands, pens, elastic bands, trophy cards (usually juniors) and a walkie talkie. Take the bag to your assigned ring.

Prepare a place at the table next to the entrance where you will distribute the armbands, place the elastic band supply and the catalog so they are easily reached by the exhibitors and ensure that a chair is available for yourself and the judge. It can be a long day and it is easier to dispense armbands from a sitting position. Prepare a place at the other table (judges table) where the ribbons, trophies, judges book will be.



Open your ribbon holder and determine where you will place the ribbons for each class within the judge's reach.

Determine if any trophies are to be awarded for any breeds that are being exhibited in your ring, locate them and familiarize yourself with the circumstances under which they are to be given out so you can place them with the ribbons to be awarded at the same time. Our club also gives junior handlers a gift item for each entry. It is easiest to hand these out as the junior is obtaining their armband.

Get the ring in order for the judge to begin. Check the ring for unsafe conditions (dips or holes in outdoor rings, loose mats in indoor rings). Ensure that the placement markers are correct and that you have an examination table (or ramp), if necessary.

Familiarize yourself with the two-way radios.

Always wear the button identifying you as the steward throughout the assignment. This identifies you as an official of the show.

When you have everything in order, begin to distribute armbands.

Notify the exhibitors when judging is about to begin to have all the dogs ready for their respective classes.

As soon as your judge arrives introduce yourself to the judge and ask if the current ring setup is satisfactory. If not, make the requested changes. If you are unable to make the changes yourself, contact the superintendent on the radio for assistance. Discuss with the judge what ring procedures to follow for assembling a class, late

arrivals and change of exhibitor. Do they want Dogs before Bitches in the Best of Breed competition? Where do they want their ribbons placed on the judges table?

Armbands:

Keep the armbands in numerical order separated by breeds – in the order of judging within that ring for the day. You should use your steward's book or catalog when distributing armbands. Be sure to check off the number of the ones given to an exhibitor. When an exhibitor requests an armband, you need to ask for breed and armband number. The exhibitor can look in the catalog to find the number(s) they want.

Under no circumstances should the dog's registered name be used.

Make a mark in the steward book (or catalog) by (but not on top of) the number to indicate it has been picked up. Check the printing on the armband, confirm it is for the correct breed, then give it to the exhibitor.

BEST OF BREED COMPETITION

✓ 5	Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXXXX. Dog. Breeder XXXXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXXXX. Sire XXXXXXXX. Owner XXXXXXXX.
✓ 7	Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXXXX. Dog. Breeder XXXXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXXXX. Sire XXXXXXXX. Owner XXXXXXXX.
<i>Abs</i> 9	Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXXXX. Dog. Breeder XXXXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXXXX. Sire XXXXXXXX. Owner XXXXXXXX.
✓ *12	Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXXXX. Bitch. Breeder XXXXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXXXX. Sire XXXXXXXX. Owner XXXXXXXX.
✓ *18	Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXXXX. Bitch. Breeder XXXXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXXXX. Sire XXXXXXXX. Owner XXXXXXXX.

The rubber bands and a spare pen should be available to the exhibitor. The pen may be used by the exhibitor to mark the armband in case they are picking up more than one.

Absentees:

Only the owner or agent may declare a dog absent prior to the class being called. Prior to declaring a dog that has not had its armband picked up (or declared absent), call the armband number twice, when calling in the class.

Each judge will have his own system of recording absentees. Stewards, however, should keep a class-by-class account of absent dogs by marking the steward's book or catalog. Certain judges will ask the steward to notify them of absentees once the class is assembled. Keep the armbands in a prominent place on the judge's table. Many stewards place the armbands on top of the judge's book to ensure the dogs are marked absent. Before making final placement markings, judges may refer to these armbands as a cross check.

Move Ups:

Move ups are when an exhibitor chooses to move the dog up from the class judging into the Best of Breed (Variety) competition. This commonly happens during a show circuit as the dog may have earned its championship after the closing of entries. In order for the dog to be moved up, the exhibitor has to declare the change of the entry status with the Superintendent no less than 30 minutes prior to the start of that days judging. The Superintendent will change the entry in

the Judge's Book but NOT in the steward's book. When an exhibitor picks up the armband and tells you, the steward they are a "move up" give them the armband. Make a note of the "move up to breed" in your steward book. Prior to the judging of that breed confirm with the judge that the change has been made in their book. If this has not been changed in the Judge's Book call the Superintendent to the ring.

Assembling a Class:

Owners or Agents are solely responsible for the presence of their dogs in the ring when their breed or variety is to be judged. Nevertheless, the steward should make every effort to notify all exhibitors at ringside who have entries in a given class that the class is about to be judged. Several ringside announcements will satisfy this responsibility.

Ring Routine:

The judge will explain to the steward the judging procedure to be used throughout the day. This should include how they want single class entries, and in Best of Breed (Variety) if they want catalog order or Dogs before Bitches. You should line up the dogs in each class in the order the judge has indicated. Call the entries into the ring by their catalog number (remember no names).

Late Arrivals:

Decisions to allow latecomers into the ring must be made by the judge. Stewards must NEVER instruct exhibitors in this regard even if they are certain of what the judge's decision will be. Generally, a judge will instruct the steward to allow dogs into the ring until all dogs already present have been individually examined and individually gaited. Given such instructions, stewards should so inform any exhibitor arriving after that time. Never argue the point. If an exhibitor becomes at all argumentative, consult with the judge for a final determination. However, if no general instructions have been given, do not interrupt the judge while he is examining a dog. Wait until the judge has finished individually examining and gaiting the current dog.

Change of Handler:

A change of handler is usually permitted until all dogs have been individually gaited and individually examined. Stewards must, however, refer all such requests to the judge.

Handler with Multiple Breed Entries:

If a handler has picked up multiple armbands for the same breed they will probably need to make a "dog change" between classes. If they are exiting the ring and tell you they have a dog change for the next class, advise the judge. They should make this change in a timely manner, not delaying the judging of the next class. In most cases the judge will allow the rest of the next class to enter the ring leaving a space for the dog and handler in the lineup. Make sure to check that the handler has changed the armband to match the dog and class. If they require help changing then you may assist.

Small Rings, Large Entries:

When entries are large, the judge may wish to split classes to facilitate judging. This is permissible, and in fact desirable. To allow for the correct marking of the absentees, first assemble the entire class in the ring. The judge will inform you of how the class should be divided. Make a note of what dogs belong in what division. Call the divisions back into the ring in catalog order. If a class is split, the judge should select at least four dogs from the first section to compete for the final placements in the class. Remind those exhibitors selected from each division to remain at ringside, as they will be required for further judging.

Order of Judging:

Breed judging is done in the following order.

Regular Classes:

Carefully check the exhibitor's armband as they enter the ring, mark your catalog indicating the dog is present, and advise the judge when the class is assembled, indicating to the judge any absentees.

While the class is being judged, alert the exhibitors at ringside to get their dogs ready for the next class. Prepare the appropriate ribbons (blue, red, yellow and white) and trophies or trophy cards for the class. Only prepare ribbons if they are needed. Example: if there are only two entries in the class, then only the blue and red ribbons (1st & 2nd place) are needed.

OPEN DOGS	
✓ *7	Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXX. Breeder XXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXX. Sire XXXXXX. Owner XXXXXX.
✓ 11	Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXX. Breeder XXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXX. Sire XXXXXX. Owner XXXXXX.
✓ 15	Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXX. Breeder XXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXX. Sire XXXXXX. Owner XXXXXX.
✓ 19	Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXX. Breeder XXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXX. Sire XXXXXX. Owner XXXXXX.



The judge will line up the dogs in order, in front of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th placement markers in the ring before marking the book or handing out ribbons or prizes. Take special care to see that the correct dogs and their handlers go to the appropriate markers. If the handler of a placed dog fails to go to the marker, remind them that they must go to the marker to receive their award. If the handler of a placed dog leaves the ring before receiving an award, do not go after them, but report the matter to the judge.

Once the Judge's Book is marked (you should also mark your book), the judge will then award the ribbons and trophies or trophy cards, if any. The judge must award the ribbons, not the steward. Additionally, ribbons must be presented in the ring.

BRED-BY-EXHIBITOR BITCHES

- ✓ 10 2 Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXX. Breeder XXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXX.
Sire XXXXXX. Owner XXXXXX.
- ✓ *14 3 Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXX. Breeder XXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXX.
Sire XXXXXX. Owner XXXXXX.
- ✓ *22 1 Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXX. Breeder XXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXX.
Sire XXXXXX. Owner XXXXXX.

As the exhibitors are leaving the ring after each class, remind the handler of the 1st place dog to stay near the ring so they are ready to come in for Winners Class. Also, remind the handler of the 2nd place dog to stay near ring in case they are needed for Reserve Winners judging.

Winners and Reserve Winners:

After the regular classes have been judged, call into the ring all of the dogs that have placed 1st in their classes so that the judge can select Winner's Dog. Classes are called back into the ring in reverse order.

PUPPY DOGS, 6 MOS & UNDER 9 MOS

- ✓ 5 1 Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXX. Breeder XXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXX.
Sire XXXXXX. Owner XXXXXX.
- ✓ *17 2 Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXX. Breeder XXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXX.
Sire XXXXXX. Owner XXXXXX.

TWELVE TO EIGHTEEN MONTH DOGS

- ✓ 3 2 Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXX. Breeder XXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXX.
Sire XXXXXX. Owner XXXXXX.
- ✓ 13 3 Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXX. Breeder XXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXX.
Sire XXXXXX. Owner XXXXXX.
- ✓ 19 1 Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXX. Breeder XXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXX.
Sire XXXXXX. Owner XXXXXX.

OPEN DOGS

- ✓ *7 4 Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXX. Breeder XXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXX.
Sire XXXXXX. Owner XXXXXX.
- ✓ 11 1 Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXX. Breeder XXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXX.
Sire XXXXXX. Owner XXXXXX.
- ✓ 15 2 Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXX. Breeder XXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXX.
Sire XXXXXX. Owner XXXXXX.
- ✓ 21 3 Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXX. Breeder XXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXX.
Sire XXXXXX. Owner XXXXXX. 11 19 5

Call class winners in
this order for WD

WINNERS DOG _____ RESERVE _____

Only undefeated dogs that have won 1st prize in either the Puppy (6-9 and 9-12 month), 12 – 18 month, Novice, Amateur-Owner-Handler, Bred-by-Exhibitor, American Bred, and Open Classes are eligible to compete for Winner's Dog. In other words, if a dog has been entered in more than one class and is defeated in any one of the classes in which they are entered, the dog is Not Eligible to compete for Winner's.

Lay out the Winner's ribbon (solid purple) and the Reserve Winner's ribbon (purple and white stripe).

After the judge has selected Winner's Dog, the other dogs competing for Winner's must remain in the ring. While the judge marks their book, and gives out the Winner's ribbon (& trophy if applicable) you should mark your steward's book.

If there is a dog that placed 2nd in the class of the awarded Winner's that is otherwise undefeated, call this dog to the ring immediately. Competition for

Reserve Winner's may not properly take place without this dog being called into the ring. While the judge is marking the Judge's Book mark your steward's book with the Reserve Winner's Dog.

PUPPY DOGS, 6 MOS & UNDER 9 MOS
✓ 11 2 Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXX. Breeder XXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXX.
Sire XXXXXX. Owner XXXXXX.
✓ *17 1 Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXX. Breeder XXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXX.
Sire XXXXXX. Owner XXXXXX.

TWELVE TO EIGHTEEN MONTH DOGS
✓ 3 1 Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXX. Breeder XXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXX.
Sire XXXXXX. Owner XXXXXX.
✓ 15 3 Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXX. Breeder XXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXX.
Sire XXXXXX. Owner XXXXXX.
✓ 19 2 Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXX. Breeder XXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXX.
Sire XXXXXX. Owner XXXXXX. 3 #17

WINNERS DOG 3 RESERVE 19

In this example, Winner's Dog was #3 from the 12 – 18 Month Dogs. So, the Ring Steward called in the second-place winner from 12 – 18 Month Dogs, #19, to compete against the first-place winner from Puppy Dogs 6 – 9 Months and the Judge awarded him Reserve Winner's Dog.

After the judge has selected Winner's Dog and Reserve Winner's Dog, call the first class in bitches and follow the same procedure as in dogs until the judge has selected Winner's Bitch and Reserve Winner's Bitch.

Upon the completion of judging Reserve Winner's Bitch, the order of judging is as follows:

Non-Regular Classes with Single-Dog Entries:

(Veterans, Field Trial, etc.)

These classes must be judged before Best of Breed (Variety) since undefeated dogs that have competed at the show only in these classes must go into Best of Breed (Variety) competition. Beyond this consideration, it is worth noting that a champion of record, or according to the owner's records, may be entered in Best of Breed (Variety) competition by fact of being eligible and entered in the Best of Breed (Variety) competition. An owner may request a dog to be moved up to Best of Breed (Variety) class by the superintendent, up to one-half hour prior to the start of any regular conformation judging. Only the superintendent may make changes to entries in the Judge's Book.

Best of Breed (Variety) (BOB/BOV):

The following dogs are eligible for this competition: All dogs entered for Best of Breed (Variety) competition and the Winner's Dog and Winner's Bitch, together with any undefeated dogs of non-regular classes with single dog entries.

Best of Winners (BOW):

The Winner's Dog and Winner's Bitch shall be judged together for during (sometimes following) the judging of Best of Breed or Best of Variety. In the event that Winner's was only awarded to one sex, or one of the Winner's does not compete, there shall be no Best of Winners award. The dog designated Best of Winners shall be entitled to the number of points based on the number of dogs or bitches competing in the regular classes for that breed, whichever is greater. If the

Winner's Dog or Winner's Bitch is awarded Best of Breed (Variety) and both have competed in this class, the winner would automatically be designated Best of Winners.

Best of Opposite Sex (BOS):

After the Best of Breed (Variety) and Best of Winners have been awarded, the judge selects the Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed (Variety). Eligible for this award are dogs of the opposite sex to Best of Breed (Variety) that have been entered for Best of Breed (Variety) competition. This includes all dogs of the opposite sex including Best of Winners.

Example: If Best of Breed is a Dog and Best of Winners is also a Dog the judge would choose Best of Opposite Sex from all of the Bitches in the ring that competed for Best of Breed (Variety). If Best of Winners was a Bitch then she would be included for Best of Opposite Sex competition.

Select Dog & Select Bitch:

All Champions of Record that are eligible to be entered in Best of Breed/Variety competition are automatically entered in competition for points toward the "Grand Champion" title if they are entered in the Best of Breed class at a dog show. Dogs and bitches that have earned their Championship and are moved up to the Best of Breed class as well as winners from the Non-Regular* classes would be eligible to compete on the day. Neither Winner's Dog nor Winner's Bitch is eligible to compete for "Grand Champion" points regardless of the circumstances. Class dogs winning BOB/BOV or BOS will not prohibit the awarding of Select Dog/Bitch** to eligible dogs in the ring. Judges and stewards are reminded not to inquire about eligibility. Any Grand Championship points awarded to class winners, non-Champions or dogs that are otherwise ineligible will be administratively disallowed by the AKC.

BEST OF BREED COMPETITION
✓ 5 Name XXXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXXXX. Dog. Breeder XXXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXXXX. Sire XXXXXXXX. Owner XXXXXXXX.
✓ 7 Name XXXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXXXX. Dog. Breeder XXXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXXXX. Sire XXXXXXXX. Owner XXXXXXXX.
Abz 9 Name XXXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXXXX. Dog. Breeder XXXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXXXX. Sire XXXXXXXX. Owner XXXXXXXX.
✓ *12 Name XXXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXXXX. Bitch. Breeder XXXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXXXX. Sire XXXXXXXX. Owner XXXXXXXX.
✓ *18 Name XXXXXX. #XXXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXXXX. Bitch. Breeder XXXXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXXXX. Sire XXXXXXXX. Owner XXXXXXXX.

BEST OF BREED 7 BEST OF WINNERS 22 BEST OF OPPOSITE SEX 12

SELECT DOG 5 SELECT BITCH 18

BEST OWNER-HANDED 12

Determining Best of Breed/Variety

Breed judging for the AKC National Owner-Handled Series is conducted following Best of Breed judging in each breed ring. All eligible dogs in the BOB competition (including WD & WB) will stay in the ring after the judge makes their placements in BOB competition. The ring steward will ask all professional handlers, household members of and current assistants to a professional handler, any exhibitor that did not indicate on their entry that they were eligible for the AKC National Owner-Handled Series, and any dog no longer eligible for the AKC National Owner-Handled Series to leave the ring and then the judge will select the Owner-Handled Best of Breed. A dog being "cut" or otherwise "defeated" in the Best of Breed ring

remains eligible to compete in the AKC National Owner-Handled Series. The Owner-Handled Best of Breed will be selected from the eligible exhibits based on the program procedures.

Judging of the breed/variety for the regular show may determine the dog that is awarded Owner-Handled Best of Breed. Please follow these procedures:

- If the Best of Breed/Variety winner of the regular show is eligible for the AKC National Owner-Handled Series competition, it will also be awarded Owner-Handled Best of Breed. In this case, the dog will be eligible to compete in group competition for the regular show and group competition for the AKC National Owner-Handled Series.
- If the regular show Best of Breed/Variety winner is not eligible for AKC National Owner- Handled Series competition and the regular show Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed/Variety is eligible, the regular show Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed/Variety will compete against the eligible exhibits of the other sex to determine Owner-Handled Best of Breed.
- If neither the Best of Breed/Variety nor the Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed/Variety from the regular show is eligible for the AKC National Owner-Handled Series competition and both the Select Dog and Select Bitch are eligible, the judge is to choose Owner-Handled Best of Breed from the Selects and any eligible Winners Dog or Winners Bitch.
- If one of the Selects from the regular show is eligible for AKC National Owner-Handled Series competition, excuse all eligible champions and non-regular class winners of the same sex and then choose Owner-Handled Best of Breed from the remaining eligible dogs of the opposite sex including the eligible Winners.
- If the regular show Best of Breed/Variety, Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed/Variety, Select Dog & Select Bitch are not eligible, the judge may choose any eligible dog that competed in Best of Breed including Winner's Dog or Winner's Bitch as the Owner-Handled Best of Breed.
- If no dog remaining in the ring is eligible for the AKC National Owner-Handled Series competition, Owner-Handled Best of Breed will not be awarded and the breed/variety will not be represented in group competition for the AKC National Owner-Handled Series.

Special Attractions

NOHS (National Owner Handled Series):

Judging Procedures

Determining Exhibitor Eligibility:

The first step in judging the AKC National Owner-Handled Series is determining exhibitor eligibility. Dogs declared eligible must be identified by an asterisk (*) or other representative mark in the Judge's Book, steward's book, and the show catalog. The Owner-Handled Best of Breed will be selected from the eligible dogs that competed in the Best of Breed/Variety competition for the regular show. This includes Winner's Dog, Winner's Bitch, and the undefeated winners of the non-

regular classes. This excludes all dogs defeated during class and winner's competition for the regular show.

PUPPY DOGS, 6 MOS & UNDER 9 MOS
11 Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXX. Breeder XXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXX.
Sire XXXXXX. Owner XXXXXX.
*17 Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXX. Breeder XXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXX.
Sire XXXXXX. Owner XXXXXX.
Indicates Owner-handled
TWELVE TO EIGHTEEN MONTH DOGS
3 Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXX. Breeder XXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXX.
Sire XXXXXX. Owner XXXXXX.
15 Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXX. Breeder XXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXX.
Sire XXXXXX. Owner XXXXXX.
19 Name XXXXX. #XXXXXXX. Birthday XXXXXX. Breeder XXXXXXXXX. Dam XXXXXX.
Sire XXXXXX. Owner XXXXXX.

WINNERS DOG _____ RESERVE _____

Best Puppy Competition:

When offered by club, this competition is for the winners of the 6-9 month and 9-12 month classes of both sexes. This is judged after the Best of Breed (Variety) is completed. If BOV or BOW is a puppy from one of these classes they are automatically the winner of Best Puppy in Breed (Variety). If WD and WB are both puppies, these are the only two to be considered for the award. If only one of WD or WB is a puppy, they are automatically the winner of Best Puppy in Breed (Variety). If no puppies have earned these awards, then all puppies placing 1st from the 6-9 month and 9-12 month of both sexes must be called into the ring to compete for this award.

Best Bred By Exhibitor Competition:

When offered by club, this competition is for the winners of the Bred by Exhibitor class of both sexes. This is judged after the Best of Breed (Variety) is completed. If BOV or BOW is from the Bred by Exhibitor class they are automatically the winner of Best Bred by Exhibitor in Breed (Variety). If WD and WB are both from the Bred by Class, these are the only two to be considered for the award. If only one of WD or WB is from the Bred by Class, they are automatically the winner of Best Bred by Exhibitor in Breed (Variety). If no Bred by Exhibitor entry has earned these awards, then both sexes placing 1st from the Bred by Exhibitor class must be called into the ring to compete for this award. If only one 1st place Bred by Exhibitor entered in that Breed (Variety) they are automatically the winner of Best Bred by Exhibitor in Breed (Variety).

Stud Dog, Brood Bitch, Brace and Team Classes:

These classes are reserved for Specialties are judged after Best of Breed (Variety) is awarded.

RIBBONS:

Oh, those pesky ribbons, there are so many. What do they mean?

Purple & Gold Stripe = Best of Breed (Variety)

Blue & White Stripe= Best of Winners (Both Winner's Dog & Winner's Bitch must compete for this)

Red & White Stripe= Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed (must be the opposite sex of the breed winner, if there are not both sexes competing for Best of Breed this is not awarded)

Light Blue and White: Select Dog &/or Select Bitch (both may apply)

Maroon: NOHS

Rules:

The following are a few rules of the American Kennel Club with which you should become familiar.

Chapter 3, Section 13. ... A dog that has been defeated in any regular class or non-regular class for single dog entries in its breed or variety at the show is ineligible to compete for Best of Breed or Variety. ...

Chapter 7, Section 15. A judge's decision shall be final in all cases affecting the merits of the dogs. Full discretionary power is given to the judge to withhold any, or all, prizes for want of merit. After a class has once been judged in accordance with these rules and regulations, it shall not be rejudged. A class is considered judged when the judge has marked his book, which must be done before the following class is examined. If any errors have been made by the judge in marking the awards as made, he may correct the same but must initial any such corrections.

Chapter 7, Section 16. A judge may order any person or dog from the ring. For the purpose of facilitating the judging, judges are required to exclude from the rings in which they are judging all persons except the steward or stewards and the show attendants assigned to the ring and those actually engaged in exhibiting.

Chapter 7, Section 17. A judge shall be supplied with a book called the judge's book in which he shall mark all awards and all absent dogs. The original judges' books at shows shall be in the custody of the judge, steward, superintendent, or superintendent's assistant. None other shall be allowed access to them. At the conclusion of the judging, the book must be signed by the judge and any changes which may have been made therein initialed by him.

Chapter 7, Section 18. A judge's decision, as marked in the judge's book, cannot be changed by him after judging, but an error appearing in the judge's book may be corrected by the American Kennel Club after consultation with the judge.

Chapter 7, Section 20. If a judge disqualifies a dog at any show, he shall make a note in the judge's book giving his reasons for such disqualification. In computing the championship points for a breed, said dog shall not be considered as having been present at the show.

Chapter 11, Section 6. No entry may be changed or canceled unless notice of the change or cancellation is received in writing by the Superintendent or Show Secretary named in the premium list to receive entries, prior to the closing date and hour for entries, except that a correction may be made in the sex of a dog, or a dog may be transferred from one division of the Puppy Class to another or between the Puppy and Twelve-to-Eighteen Month Class at a show prior to the judging. A dog determined to be ineligible by its owner/agent, for the class in which it has been entered may be transferred to an eligible Open Class at a show prior to the judging of any regular conformation class within the sex of that breed or variety, and that dogs which according to their owners' records have completed

the requirements for a championship after the closing of entries for a show but whose championships are unconfirmed, may be transferred from on one of the regular classes to the Best of Breed or Variety competition, provided this transfer is made by the Superintendent or Show Secretary at least one half-hour prior to the scheduled start of any regular conformation judging at the show. No dog may otherwise be transferred to another class. Owners are responsible for errors in the entry forms, regardless of who may make such errors. However, superintendents and show secretaries that validate entries with AKC records may correct the dog information to match the AKC registration data for the dog as specifically authorized by the American Kennel Club.

Chapter 11, Section 8. A dog which is blind, deaf, castrated, spayed, or which has been changed in appearance by artificial means except as specified in the standard for its breed, or a male which does not have two normal testicles normally located in the scrotum, may not compete at any show and will be disqualified except that a castrated male may be entered as Stud Dog in the Stud Dog Class and a spayed bitch may be entered as Brood Bitch in the Brood Bitch Class. A dog will not be considered to have been changed by artificial means because of removal of dewclaws or docking of tail if it is of a breed in which such removal of dewclaws or docking is a regularly approved practice which is not contrary to the standard. Neutered dogs and spayed bitches would be allowed to compete in Veterans Classes only at independent specialties and/or those all-breed shows which do not offer any competitive classes beyond Best of Breed.

When a judge finds any of these conditions in any dog he is judging, he shall disqualify the dog marking his book "Disqualified" and stating the reason. He shall not obtain the opinion of the show veterinarian.

When a dog has been disqualified at a show as being blind, deaf, castrated, spayed or changed in appearance by artificial means except as specified in the standard for its breed, any awards taken by such dog at that show shall be canceled by the American Kennel Club and the dog may not again compete unless and until, following application by the owner to the American Kennel Club, that owner has received official notification from the American Kennel Club that the dog's show eligibility has been reinstated. ...

Chapter 11, Section 8-A. A dog that in the opinion of the judge menaces and threatens or exhibits any sign that it may not be safely approached by the judge or examined by the judge in the normal manner shall be excused from the ring. When the judge excuses the dog, he shall mark the dog "Excused," stating the reason in the Judge's Book. A dog so excused shall not be counted as having competed. ...

A dog that in the opinion of the judge attacks any person in the ring shall be disqualified. When the judge disqualifies the dog, he shall mark the dog "Disqualified," stating the reason in the judge's book.

When a dog has been disqualified under this Section, any awards at that show shall be canceled by the American Kennel Club, and the dog may not again compete unless and until, following application by the owner to the American Kennel Club,

the owner has received official notification from the American Kennel Club that the dog's show eligibility has been reinstated....

Chapter 14, Section 1. Every dog which is present in the ring for a class in which it is properly entered must continue to compete in all competition in its breed or variety for which it is entered or becomes eligible, unless it has been excused, dismissed, disqualified or found to be ineligible under the rules.

APPENDIX A DOGS EXHIBITED ON A TABLE

Table & Ramp Breeds

TABLE BREEDS

SPORTING

BOYKIN SPANIEL (or Ground or Ramp) COCKER SPANIEL
ENGLISH COCKER SPANIEL NEDERLANDSE KOOIKERHONDJE

HOUNDS

BASENJI
ALL BEAGLES
ALL DACHSHUNDS
PETIT BASSET GRIFFON VENDEEN (or Ground) PORTUGUESE PODENGO PEQUENO
WHIPPET (or Ground or Ramp)

WORKING- NO WORKING BREEDS ON TABLE

TERRIERS

ALL TERRIERS **on TABLE, EXCEPT** those noted below: AIREDALE TERRIER
AMERICAN STAFFORDSHIRE (Ground or Ramp)
BULL TERRIER
IRISH TERRIERS
MINI BULL TERRIER (Ground or Table)
KERRY BLUE TERRIER
SOFT COATED WHEATEN TERRIER
STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER

TOY - ALL TOY BREEDS ON TABLE

NON-SPORTING

ALL AMERICAN ESKIMOS BICHON FRISE
BOSTON TERRIER COTON DE TULEAR FRENCH BULLDOG LHASA APSO

LOWCHEN
MINIATURE POODLE
NORWEGIAN LUNDEHUND SCHIPPERKE
SHIBA INU
TIBETAN SPANIEL
TIBETAN TERRIER
XOLOITZCUINTLI (Toy and Miniatures)

HERDING

CARDIGAN WELSH CORGI MINIATURE AMERICAN SHEPHERD PEMBROKE WELSH CORGI
PULI
PUMI
PYRENEAN SHEPHERD
SHETLAND SHEEPDOG
SWEDISH VALLHUND

FSS/MISCELLANEOUS BREEDS

LANCASHIRE HEELER (Eff 7/1/2018) PERUVIAN INCA ORCHID (Small and Medium) RUSSIAN TOY (Eff 7/1/2018)

RAMP OPTIONAL BREEDS

At the discretion of the judge through all levels of competition including group and Best in Show judging.

AMERICAN WATER SPANIEL BOYKIN SPANIEL (Ground/Table) CLUMBER SPANIEL
ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL LAGOTTO ROMAGNOLO
FIELD SPANIEL
WELSH SPRINGER SPANIEL CIRNECO DELL'ETNA

WHIPPET (Ground/Table) AMERICAN STAFFORDSHIRE IRISH TERRIERS
KERRY BLUE TERRIER

SOFT COATED WHEATEN TERRIER STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER FINNISH SPITZ

KEESHONDEN
ENTLEBUCHER MOUNTAIN DOG (Eff. 5/1/18)
FINNISH LAPPHUND
NORWEGIAN BUHUND
POLISH LOWLAND SHEEPDOG SPANISH WATER DOG NORRBOTTENSPETS (Misc.)

BREEDS THAT MUST BE JUDGED ON RAMP

Applies to all conformation competition associated with AKC conformation dog shows or at any event at which an AKC conformation title may be earned.

SUSSEX SPANIEL BULLDOG CHOW CHOW BASSET HOUND CHINESE SHAR-PEI

Breeds not listed above are to be judged on the ground.

NOTE: Ramps can be used in emergency situations to judge any breed. See next page for additional information.

REVISED 1/29/2018

Use of Ramps: A Clarification

Background

The appropriate place to individually examine dogs during breed judging is designated by each parent club and AKC does not pre-empt their authority in this regard. Current list of table and ramp breeds may be found on the AKC website.

Table Breeds

Designated table breeds must be examined on an examination table. When re-examining them, they must be placed back on the table. No other breeds may be examined or otherwise considered during judging

on an examination table. This does not apply to breeds that are eligible or required to be judged on the ramp during breed judging, when judging these breeds in the Group and/or Best in Show. Exception: Petit Basset Griffon Vendeens and Miniature Bull Terriers may be examined on the ground or the table.

Ramp Breeds

A judge requesting the use of a ramp must give notice to the show superintendent/show secretary prior to judging. AKC approval is not required. Designated ramp breeds may be examined on the ground or on a ramp during breed judging at the sole discretion of the judge and not the exhibitor. The entire entry in that breed is to be examined on the ground (table if applicable) or on a ramp. **Effective January 1, 2015 the ramp will be available at the discretion of the judge for all ramp optional breeds through all levels of competition including group and Best in Show judging.**

All Other Breeds

Breeds not designated as either table or ramp breeds may only be examined on the ground. Exception: Boykin Spaniels and Whippets may be examined on the ground, on a table or on a ramp.

Emergencies

In emergency situations, with the approval of the Show Chair, breeds customarily examined on the ground may be examined on a ramp, not on a table. An emergency is defined as a temporary condition that arose immediately prior to or at a dog show. Convalescence from a medical procedure, illness and recuperation from injuries are examples of conditions that are not emergencies. The emergency use of a ramp may be allowed on a day and may be extended to include a cluster as well as judging either a group and/or Best in Show.

When a ramp is used for non-ramp breeds in an emergency, the superintendent is to post appropriate signs at the ring and at the superintendent's office that must include notice that exhibitors are entitled to a refund of their entry fee. Field Staff is directed to report all instances of the emergency use of a ramp to Events and Judging Operations. If there is need thereafter, the following weekend for example, as in the past, a formal accommodation must be requested from our legal department.

AKC complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and wants to provide to all the opportunity to participate in its events.

However, according to the "Fitness to Judge Policy" as published in the Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges, approved May, 2007, "It is essential that a dog show judge be physically capable of performing the functions necessary to properly judge dogs." A judge must have:

- • ▲The flexibility to examine all parts of a dog's anatomy where each breed is presented (i.e. on the ground, on a ramp or on a table).
- • ▲The capability of measuring or weighing a dog and examining on the ground, table or ramp where applicable.

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