

The Canadian Dog Judges Association offers the following Guidelines for Breed Seminar Presentations. These guidelines focus on the format for presentations rather than on the specific content, since the presenter is the breed expert and knows the essentials of the breed that judges need to understand in order to judge effectively. Since many outstanding judges and breeders might not have a great deal of experience in offering seminars, it is hoped that these Guidelines will assist in developing informative, focused, and dynamic presentations.

A. SEMINAR SUGGESTIONS:

1. Presenters should presume that attending judges are grounded in basic structure.
2. DO NOT read from a script or extensively from the standard.
3. Printed handouts are highly desirable. These should include the breed standard, any illustration or interpretation of the standard available, and any other helpful material that judges may take away and study.
4. AKC breed videos are readily available and, generally, are not needed at seminars. Judges want to know how you, the breed expert, see your breed and what judges should look for in evaluating the breed.
5. A brief history of the breed (5 minutes or so) is helpful if it relates to what judges see in the ring. Please limit history comments as judges can read about history that does not impact judging.
6. Presenters should detail and prioritize the specific characteristics that set their breeds apart from other breeds or breeds very similar. This should be the "meat" of the lecture. Comments should touch on overall appearance, shape and proportions; head type; specific coat or colour; tail; feet; temperament and any other area which might be specific to various breeds. Presenters should elaborate on any unusual structure as well.
7. Prioritize the essential virtues judges should look for and the faults that breeders are reluctant to forgive. What are the virtues that should be highly rewarded in the breed. If there are common mistakes judges make related to your breed, tell the judges about them.
8. If your breed is closely related to another breed, comments about comparison are helpful.
9. It is often useful to have a high quality live dog to point out specific breed characteristics.
10. If there is a breed specific method of examining your breed in the show ring, please demonstrate this.
11. If your breed has a specific function, it is very helpful to have a short video clip of dogs at work.
12. Slides, video, computer manipulations etc. are often very helpful in fostering an understanding of the breed.

B. SELECTION OF DOGS:

1. Ideally, it is helpful to have about four dogs for the "hands-on" portion, although some presenters have had more and others less.
2. Dogs should be of the very best quality available. Judges learn more from good dogs than from mediocre ones, and even the best are never perfect.
3. Dogs should be in show condition and coat if at all possible. Dogs currently being shown are most apt to be in condition and similar to what a judge may find in the ring.
4. In the case of heavily coated dogs, one "cut down" dog or one totally out of coat can be very instructive if it is of high quality.