



Part of the mandate of the CDJA is to provide our Members the opportunity to access on-going education. This education can be associated with new and current Breeds, CKC Rules and Regulations or recent judging practices. As Judges, it is our responsibility to keep abreast with current changes. This applies to all levels of judging; All-Breed and Permit Judge. The following questions were submitted by CDJA Members as situations presented themselves. The answers were provided by a panel of 5 All-Breed Judges; Mrs. Donna Cole, Mr. L.T. Haverstock, Mr. L. Kereluke, Dr. J. Reeve-Newson and Dr. M. Wood. Their answers were reviewed and compiled by Chair, Mrs. Barbara Heal, and Committee Members, Mr. Allan Brown, Mrs. Thora Brown, Mrs. Nancy Popovich and Mrs. Rosemary Shoreman.

The FAQ Booklet was originally printed in January 2007, followed by a second edition in October 2010 and most recently a third edition in February 2018. In 2017, the CDJA Board agreed to publish this booklet on its Website. By doing so, it ensures a more up-to-date source of information should there be changes such as CKC Rules and Regulation.

It is the responsibility of all Judges to be familiar with all CKC rules as contained in Conformation Show Rules and in the Guidelines for Conformation Judges. The answers offered in this booklet should in no way preclude the authority of the CKC's CSR and Guidelines but only to clarify their intent. The answers here are intended to aid with those uncertainties but by no means should ever preclude on-going discussions with mentors or other Judges.

INTRODUCTION

The contents of this booklet are specifically intended for new Judges and deal with matters that may be unfamiliar to them as they enter the world of professional dog judging. It has been prepared by a Committee within the CDJA solely as an additional source of information for its members and deals with some situations beyond those addressed within any other Official Kennel Publication.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed in the answers to these questions are those of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect those of the Canadian Kennel Club. Where an expressed opinion differs from Canadian Kennel Club interpretation of its policy, the Canadian Kennel Club interpretation shall be construed as correct.

MISSION STATEMENT

Every organization that intends to be in business and provide a service to its members needs a "Vision Statement" to guide it along its intended path. This broad statement is only changed by circumstances and reality as the organization moves towards its goals. The following is the initial vision statement for the Canadian Dog Judges Association.

The Association intends to work in a cooperative manner with the Canadian Kennel Club and Dog Clubs of all types to promote professional Conformation judging by its members. The Association will deliver education programs for Judges and disseminate information designed to keep its members informed and united in a common goal of improving the image of the Canadian conformation judging profession around the world.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Assignments & Solicitation
2	Contracts Judging Expenses
3	Judging Fees & Expenses
4	Judging
5	Judging Procedures
6	Excusing or Disqualifying Dogs
7	Group Judging
8	Judging During Inclement Weather
9	Critiques
10	Judging Etiquette
11	Professionalism in Judging
12	Judging in Foreign Countries
13	Ground Travel Expenses
14	Air Travel within Canada

- 15 Air Travel to Foreign Countries
- 16 Further Education

1.) ASSIGNMENTS & SOLICITATION

1. *What exactly is considered soliciting?*

Soliciting is actively or blatantly approaching show giving club officials and asking for a judging assignment. Trading assignments is also considered a form of soliciting.

2. *How does a Permit Judge get an assignment?*

Permit Judges who have made a reputation within their breed(s) and/or have been actively involved with various clubs and dog activities may have an easier time in getting Permits than those who have never created a positive reputation for themselves. While it is never easy to get Permit assignments, being actively involved in the dog game may help create a network of dog-friends who may assist with obtaining assignments. Once the first Permits have been completed, clubs will then be able to form an opinion as to your judging ability which will in turn form a basis for future assignments.

3. *Is it permissible to have a business card with the words “dog show judge”?*

Under current Canadian Kennel Club rules, it is permissible to have a business card. This card should only include contact information and your CKC accreditation, and never any foreign accreditation unless you have gone through a foreign approval system. (CSR)

4. *Can I give out my business cards unsolicited to dog show executives?*

To avoid the impression of improprieties, a Judge should be extremely cautious when dispensing business cards. Unless specifically requested or for the purposes of contact information only, random distribution is best avoided.

5. *Is it permissible to attend shows in my area when I have an immediate upcoming assignment?*

Although this was once addressed within the Judges Guidelines, there is currently no specific time frame given. For many Permit Judges, attending dog shows as a spectator is considered as a form of education. However, Judges must be ever vigilant of the negative effects their actions may cause and practice a certain amount of discretion while attending shows.

2.) CONTRACTS

1. *What information should be included in a contract?*

A contract should contain the name of the show giving club, the name of the Judge, the precise location, contact information for both the Judge and dog show official(s), the date(s) of the show, the specific assignment(s) for the show, i.e. all breeds, Groups and/or Specialties. In addition to the judging fee, other details such as transportation (ground, air), lodging, meals and any other expenses that will or will not be covered by the club, should be included. If a Judge has any medical conditions or dietary requirements, it too

should be included in the contract. It should also be noted that some clubs may have their own restrictions on acceptance of other assignments beyond the CKC “less than ninety day” rule (i.e. four or six months). If this is unacceptable to the Judge, it must be dealt with prior to signing. A Judge is under no obligation to accept an assignment should the stipulations be unsuitable. Conversely the club is under no obligation to accept a Judge’s requirements and can withdraw the offer to judge.

2. *Can I inform the C.K.C. if a club reneges on a contract?*

Assuming there are no mitigating circumstances, i.e. club bankruptcy, act of nature, a contract is a binding document between the Judge and the club. Judges may contact the CKC about any violations of the contract. However the reverse is also true. Clubs are within their right to take action against a Judge who has violated a contract. (CSR)

3. *Can I add stipulations to a contract?*

Stipulations such as hotel room requirements, dietary needs, etc., may be added to a contract. However, the club is under no obligation to accept these additions and can withdraw the offer to judge. It would be prudent and courteous to discuss any changes to the contract prior to making additions.

4. *What activities might I be asked to perform as part of a judging assignment?*

Whatever duties you might be asked to perform as part of an assignment should be stipulated in your original contract. Occasionally you might be asked to do some “fun” classes, i.e., costume, best coat, etc. Some clubs may host a dinner following the show which could include exhibitors. While it is permissible to attend these functions, a Judge must be reminded that their conduct must be beyond reproach when socializing with exhibitors. A Judge might also be asked to judge additional dogs in the case of an overload or should another Judge become ill.

5. *What would be considered legitimate expenses to charge a club?*

In addition to the judging fee, any travel expenses such as ground mileage, economy airfare, parking, taxis, shuttle bus, etc., are considered reasonable expenses. Similarly, hotel, meals for the day of arrival/departure and on route are also reasonable expenses.

6. *What would be considered inappropriate expenses to charge a club?*

Inappropriate items of a personal nature would be dry cleaning bills, hairdressers, phone bills, in-room movie rentals, alcohol or dog boarding/kennel help. Any other airline tickets other than economy would be inappropriate without being stipulated in the contract.

3.) JUDGING FEES/EXPENSES

1. *At what level can a Permit Judge expect to be paid?*

A Permit Judge is rarely, if ever, paid to judge. Some clubs may offer expenses such as transportation, meals and/or accommodation. While some clubs may not compensate Permit Judges with fewer than three Groups, others may pay for the approved Breeds but not the Permit Breeds. It should be realized that the club is assisting the Permit

Judge by providing an assignment.

2. *What is the average fee for Judges at various levels?*

Fees vary from Judge to Judge. Most All-Breed Judges charge between \$300 and \$500. Not all clubs may have the financial means to pay the higher rates; however, some clubs may be hesitant to hire a Judge who charges too little or nothing at all. Judges with two or three Groups may base their fee on a rate of \$2.00 to \$3.00 per dog for approved breeds while others charge a flat fee per day.

3. *Should I ever judge for free?*

The decision to charge at any time is strictly up to the Judge. With the exception of expenses (i.e. hotel, travel), most Judges do not charge for Specialties for their own breed or others.

4. *When should I decline an assignment?*

There are a number of reasons why a Judge may decline an assignment. The most obvious would be if the assignment were to violate CKC rules regarding time and distance between shows. Other reasons might be health related if the assignment required extensive traveling. Assignments should also be declined if they are offered with any type of conditions that are contrary to CKC regulations that may violate a Judge's credibility in regards to his integrity. Overexposure in a particular area might also be another factor even if the time and distance restrictions were not being violated.

5. *How should I decline an assignment if I cannot afford to travel for free?*

Be honest and simply explain that you cannot afford the travel expenses. Your honesty might be met with some form of compensation.

4.) JUDGING

1. *How does a Permit Judge control the "first day jitters"*

One can avoid 'first day jitters' by being well prepared and confident. Most aspiring Judges will have judged enough matches and sweepstakes to have gained sufficient Breed knowledge. Be consistent in your examination, gaiting pattern and ring procedures. Most importantly know the Breed standards. Upon receipt of the judging schedule prior to the show, review the standards of the Breeds you will be judging.

2. *How does one overcome the presence of the CKC Observers at ringside?*

While some Observers are more obvious than others, your attention and concentration should be totally focused on what is within your ring. By preparing yourself well in advance of the assignment, distractions can be eliminated. The greater knowledge you have of the Breed standards and ring procedures, the less distracted you will be.

3. *Is it permissible to review the Breed Standard while in the ring judging?*

Your Breed standards should always be with you while judging whether in the form of a hard copy or electronic devices. Reviewing a standard to ensure accuracy is permissible as long as it is done in a time efficient manner and hopefully not with every Breed. However it is better to verify the detail than overlook one.

4. *How long will it take before I become an All-Breed judge?*

The time is variable, ranging anywhere from 12-15 years. Much will depend on the number of assignments you receive per year and the geographical area of those assignments. One should proceed at a pace which corresponds to one's ability to judge the Breeds. Rushing to get more Breeds without sufficient knowledge could prove costly and hurt your credibility with clubs and exhibitors.

5. *Can I judge a Breed Specialty show while I am on Permit?*

Yes, you may. However the assignment will not count as one of your required permits, since it doesn't include the remaining breeds within your Permit. It will only count once a minimum of five (5) assignments for All-Breeds in the Permit have been completed. (CSR)

6. *Can I still judge Sanction Matches/Puppy Sweepstakes?*

You may still judge sanction matches/puppy sweepstakes using them to further your judging education particularly with Groups for which you are not yet licensed. However it is preferable to give assignments for licensed Groups to those persons who have aspiration of becoming Judges.

5.) JUDGING PROCEDURES

1. *What is considered a suitable judging pattern/procedure?*

There are several different patterns and procedures that can be used. However, whatever method you use, it is important that it remain consistent and time effective. For example, if there is only one dog in a class, send it around the ring, examine the dog, gait it down and back and then either award it or withhold the ribbon. If there is more than one dog in the class, have them set up together as they are brought into the ring. Be sure to check the armbands as they are brought into the ring. Briefly look at all of the dogs and then send them around the ring. Examine each dog individually and then have it move down and back. You may either have circle around the ring again or move it to an adjacent mat to save time. It is imperative that consideration be given to the dog's health and welfare when judging outdoors during extreme heat. Never leave a large class or Group standing in the sun or rain while you are conducting the individual examination/gaiting. Use the tent as much as possible. There are two methods that can be used when indicating your placements, while the dogs are moving or while standing still. In order for the placements to be made while the dogs are moving, they must first be aligned in sequence of order; 1,2,3,4. Otherwise the placements can be made at random but only if the dogs are standing still.

2. *How much talking is appropriate with exhibitors?*

Conversation should be limited to a greeting such as, "good morning/afternoon", (without using the exhibitor's name), instructions and thanking the exhibitors as you hand them the ribbons(CSR). You may have a brief conversation with a novice exhibitor to assist in helping them handle their dog and build their confidence.

3. *How do I interact with exhibitors at shows I am not judging?*

Interact as you would with any friends but use some discretion. Do not engage in conversations about their dogs or other exhibitor's dogs that you have judged or might be judging at a future show.

4. *How do I treat long-time friends when I judge their dogs?*

Exactly the same as any other exhibitor—with respect, courtesy, and objectivity.

5. *Is it permissible to give handling tips to novice exhibitors?*

Yes you may, depending on the circumstances. Advice should be limited to simple, yet courteous instructions that could perhaps put the exhibitor at ease while improving the dog's performance. Anything more could be interpreted as "favoritism" while at the same time delay the overall judging schedule.

6. *Is there such a thing as a "standard" examination procedure?*

Before judging any dog, a Judge should be fully cognizant of the characteristics within each breed. Toys, for example, require particular consideration when being approached and should always be examined on a table. Should a re-examination be required, a dog must be placed on the table again. Judges who are tall in stature should also realize that their height may be somewhat intimidating to smaller dogs. Conversely, there are some breeds whose origin requires them to be fearless and vigilant of strangers. In this situation, the approach should be confident and direct. An overly cautious approach with a hand being slowly extended while making direct eye contact is not recommended. Most Judges start by looking at the dog's outline comparing it in their mind's eye to the Breed standard. In other words, does the dog 'make the right picture'? Starting with the head, look at expression, then examine the mouth. Preferably, have exhibitors show the bite. This is often recommended in light of the recent spread of canine influenza. With nervous dogs or novice exhibitors, it may be easier for the Judge to conduct the oral examination. On occasion the mouth examination may be conducted at the end. Look at the details of the head again but be ever vigilant that some breeds are not comfortable with too much eye contact. While standing in front, look down at the feet and front of the dog. As per the CKC Guidelines, NEVER kneel down in front or behind a dog when examining it. Move to the side, examine the shoulders and front leg bone. Check the neck and topline and depth of chest, coat texture according to the breed standard. Go down the rear to check angulation and muscle. Check the tail set, tail and, on male dogs, the testicles. Do not turn the procedure into a Swedish massage, keeping in mind you are on a schedule. However be sure to examine for any particular Breed disqualifications, (i.e. missing teeth, rear dewclaws). (CSR)

7. *At what point should a Judge divide a large class?*

If the ring size makes it impossible to assess the dogs correctly, such as at a Specialty, a Judge may have to cut the class in half or in thirds, bearing in mind that your ring steward should be kept informed of your procedure. After examining each dog, a Judge may then place the dogs in a "retain" or "dismiss" location within the ring. If necessary have your ring steward record the armbands of those dogs you wish to retain for further judging. Once all of the dogs have been gaited and examined, review the line-up once

more before indicating those dogs you wish to retain for future judging.

8. *What do I do if an exhibitor comes into the ring with the wrong armband?*

Armbands should always be checked for each class upon entering the ring. Have the ring steward verify the correct armband and if necessary, write the correct number on the back. Any discrepancies should be verified with the show secretary and not with a show catalogue.

9. *After awarding a ribbon, what do I do if the exhibitor is wearing the wrong armband?*

This is the reason why armbands should always be checked as the dogs enter the ring. Even the class winners who are being brought back for the Winners competition should be checked again. If a mistake has been made, keep the class in question in the ring at the placements. Verify the situation with the assistance of the steward and then proceed with the awards.

10. *What do I do if the wrong dog is brought into the ring?*

Assuming that the armbands had been checked appropriately, the Superintendent may have to be called in to address the problem with the exhibitor. Until the situation is rectified, ask the rest of the class to relax.

11. *What do I do if there is a discrepancy on the Judge's sheets?*

Have the ring steward take the sheets back to the show secretary for verification. Never take the advice of the exhibitor or ring steward. And never allow a show catalogue to be brought into your ring to verify any mistake.

12. *What do I do if a scale or measuring wicket is required but not available?*

Most Judges will check to see if there is one available prior to calling for a measure. In the end, you will have to use your own judgment if none is available. However excusing or disqualifying is not an option as there is no way of knowing with certainty what the weight or height may be. Some Judges will move the dog in question to the end of the line and not place them. You may also call for the Superintendent simply to make him aware of the situation in the event of a complaint being lodged against yourself. The CKC should be made aware of the lack of equipment with a notation in the Judge's book.

12. *During the Breed competition, is it permissible to address an exhibitor's request to change the order of judging, i.e., move their entry at the end of the Breed judging, if they have a conflict?*

While this situation does occur on occasion, Permit Judges are advised to remain with the original schedule as set by the Show Secretary. However extenuating circumstances can arise whereby a Judge may agree to change the schedule to facilitate an exhibitor conflict. They are as follows:

- 1. If the exhibitor is the only one in that particular Breed.**
- 2. If however there is more than one in the Breed, all exhibitors must agree on the time change.**
- 3. If the time change will not inconvenience the judging of any other Breed or Group.**

The new time will be one, selected by the Judge, (usually at the end of the Breed judging) for the convenience of all, and that will not further disrupt the judging schedule. As a courtesy, the Show Secretary should be advised of this change.

13. *What should I do if an exhibitor in a Breed refuses to put his dog on the ramp?.....if he is the only entry?*

The number of entries is irrelevant. All exhibitors are bound by CSR Ch.4.4.5, “all exhibitors, handlers, dogs and ring stewards within the ring are subject to the Judge’s instructions”. The Judge is “in charge of the ring”.....while using established judging procedures”. If the exhibitors refused to obey the Judge’s instructions they should be excused from the ring and the Judge’s sheets marked accordingly, “exhibitor refused to use ramp”.

14. *What should I do if the handler of a dog is physically unable to control a potentially dangerous dog? (ie, a child, a person small in stature with a very large Breed.)*

The judging should be stopped and the Judge should, after a discussion with the exhibitor, request a replacement handler. The discussion should revolve around the safety of all in the ring, exhibitors and dogs. As a Judge, it is your responsibility to ensure that a fair, equal and safe environment be provided in the ring.

15. *How should a Judge react if an exhibitor of a newly recognized breed offers printed material on the Breed from other sources....Website, foreign Club?*

The manner in which the material is presented would determine the response. If it were done in a sincere way, to provide information on a new Breed, the Judge should thank the exhibitor for the material and if time permitted, perhaps discuss the Breed in general terms. If on the otherhand, it were being offered in a confrontational manner, the Judge could still accept or reject it but engage in no further discussion. In the end, it must be remembered that Judges are bound by the CKC standards.

6.) EXCUSING OR DISQUALIFYING DOGS

1. *Are there guidelines to use for excusing a dog for lack of merit?*

It is at the Judge’s discretion to excuse a dog for lack of merit based on the Breed standard. In the case of a novice exhibitor, a brief but polite explanation may be required, immaturity, poor front/rear, etc. Do not allow the conversation to become argumentative. If this should happen, call for the Superintendent. (CSR)

2. *How do I handle shy or aggressive dogs?*

Each Judge has their own tolerance for shy dogs. It is permissible to work with shy dogs or puppies for a little while, gentle patting, talking, etc. However this should not be done to such an extent as to inconvenience other exhibitors or delay the judging schedule. If “shyness” or “aggression” is addressed in the Breed standard as a “*disqualification*”, the Judge must act accordingly. Aggression is a very different matter. Do not try to be a hero and show how wonderful you are handling a belligerent dog. While *you* may be successful in handling an aggressive dog on that particular day, there is a very distinct

possibility that the next Judge could suffer a serious injury. The CKC Rules & Regulations are very clear as to when a Judge must either “excuse” or disqualify” a dog. A certain amount of tolerance is acceptable if the aggressive attitude is directed towards other dogs, but even that has its limitations. (CSR)

3. *How often should I expect to have to excuse a dog and how do I do it?*

Nobody likes to excuse a dog and in all probability it may seldom occur. If you are presented with a dog lacking in merit or one you are unable to examine, then by all means, excuse it. Simply explain your reason(s) to the exhibitor and mark your book accordingly.

4. *When should I disqualify a dog and how do I do it?*

A dog must be disqualified if it has a fault that is indicated as a DQ within the Breed standard or for the reasons listed within the CKC Rules & Regulations, i.e. blindness, deafness, castrated male or spayed female, bites or attempts to bite the Judge, another person or dog in the ring. Mark your reason within the Judge’s book and explain it to the exhibitor. Do not enter into argumentative discussion with the exhibitor about your decision. (CSR)

5. *What do I do if I am bitten in the ring?*

Disqualify the dog and mark your book accordingly as per (CSR). If necessary, seek medical attention. In the meantime, ask the class to relax and wait while the Superintendent is notified if you are unable to continue judging. A recent amendment to CSR also provides the option of to ”disqualify or permanently disqualify”.

6. *Should I carry a first aid kit?*

Most clubs will and should have a medical kit on hand. Carrying a small first aid kit or at the very least several band-aids with you, would be a good idea.

7. *What do you do if a dog is presented to you in the "Specials" class with an obvious DQ? Examples are missing teeth (Rottweiler—any missing teeth) or height restrictions (Shelties)?*

It is a Judge's (Permit or All-Breed) responsibility to uphold the standard of any Breed and at any level of competition be it puppy class or BIS level. Disqualifying a dog may not win you a popularity contest but Judges cannot ignore the standard even if the dog in question is a Champion. A dog can change greatly from the time it finishes its championship as a puppy until it reaches maturity. Standards can also change as with the Rottweiler, for example. What once was a fault, is now a DQ, (any missing teeth). Regardless of whether a dog received its Championship prior to the change, a Judge must follow the current standard.

Other examples that may occur at the Special level are:

- a dog in the Specials class attempts to bite you - it must be DQ'd.
- a dog in the Specials class is limping - it must be excused
- foreign substance (leaving you with black chalk or dye on your hands - must be excused. The fact that a previous Judge chose to ignore or may have missed a DQ is not grounds for you to do the same. Disqualify the dog and state your reasons clearly in

your Judge's book. Never assume that the Specials class is without serious faults or DQ's.

8. *What should a judge do if an exhibitor presents you with a letter from their vet, explaining why their dog has had its testicle removed? The same could also be applied to the removal of teeth, dewclaws, etc.*

I would explain that I am required to judge the dog as I see it on the day. A Judge has no way of verifying the authenticity of the letter or even if it was for the dog in question. While some standards do address "honorable scars", there is no provision for cause of absence in any standard. A dog shown with a DQ must be disqualified.

7.) GROUP JUDGING

1. *Why is it correct procedure to pull at least 6 dogs for your cut in the group?*

While many judges pull more than 6 dogs particularly within a large Group, retaining fewer than 6 could result in a problem if for some unforeseen reason, a dog should suddenly become lame or aggressive. Judges should avoid pulling only 5 dogs so as to avert the possibility of embarrassing an individual who must walk alone from the Group ring without a ribbon.

8.) JUDGING DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER

1. *When can I ask the show giving club to halt the show during inclement weather?*

If the weather conditions are such that they could endanger the welfare of the people or dogs, the show can be delayed. The decision is within the jurisdiction of the show Superintendent, usually in consultation with the show committee. The officials may ask for your opinion but be prepared for all weather conditions.

9. JUDGING GENERALITIES

1. *While watching a Group or BIS judging "as a spectator", how do you respond when asked, "who do you think will win"?*

Judges must remember to be ever vigilant in this type of situation. Regardless of the fact that you may or may not agree with another Judge's decision, it is best to keep your comments to yourself. However if asked directly for an opinion, responses such as, "there are several good dogs in the ring but only the officiating Judge has the best view of all."

2. *How does one prepare to Judge a new Breed that has been recently approved?*

As you approach the judging of a new Breed whether it is a single entry or multiple you must have done your homework. It is not enough to just read the standard. Try comparing of that standard with the standards of other Countries – AKC(if the Breed is recognized) and FCI are the two most important. If the Breed is AKC there will be Judges education material available. Contact the Judge's Education Co-Ordinator(JEC) and ask if there are materials available to you. There may be a Parent Club as well that would provide additional information. Doing a Google search will often result in Breed

clubs or Websites. Attend as many Rare Breed shows and/or Specialties and Breed presentations as possible where you can interact with the breeders and exhibitors with a hands-on examination of their dogs.

10. CRITIQUES

1. Should I agree to write critiques if asked by the club?

Specialties shows will often ask the Judge to write critiques as do most FCI shows. If you are comfortable writing critiques and the club has given you sufficient time, then by all means, do so. Generally speaking, you will not have to do critiques. It is imperative for Judges to learn how to conduct a proper critique. Terms such as “nice” or vague references are to be avoided.

2. Is there a set procedure for writing critiques?

Some clubs will provide a form which deals with the general appearance, physical structure by section, gait and temperament. Other clubs may ask that your comments be taped and later be transcribed by a club member. The usual procedure is to critique the winners after the ribbons are awarded. Have the dogs stand individually and review the overall Conformation, marking the sheet accordingly or by speaking directly into the microphone provided. With large classes, it may be necessary to make notes on each dog; particularly the ones that you feel may be in contention of winning. It is important to remember that your critiques should be brief and concise so as to avoid a delay in the judging schedule.

3. When should I refuse to write critiques?

If you are not comfortable or have never written a critique, you may want to re-consider your assignment. As many FCI countries require critiques as part of the procedure, you have *NO* choice but to do so.

4. How many critiques should I agree to write per assignment/day?

Entries within FCI countries may vary anywhere from 75-85 dogs per assignment. Depending on the club, a Judge may be required to critique all of the dogs or only some, i.e. 1-4 placings, class Winners, Best of Breed, Best of Opposite.

5. What is meant by “grading” dogs in some countries?

Grading is an assessment of the dog’s quality. Each dog is graded as Excellent, Very Good, Good, Satisfactory, or Unsatisfactory. The words change with various countries but the ideas are the same. In some countries only those awarded “excellent” will return for further judgment. Some countries will also allow dogs awarded “very good” to return.

6. What do I use as a rule of thumb when grading dogs for their Championship Certificate (CC)?

It is most important to remember to judge the Breeds according to the standards *within that country*. Standards vary from Country to Country. It is your responsibility to know the differences. Champions are usually thought of as “excellent” examples of their

Breeds, so a Judge must ask themselves, “Is this dog an excellent representative of the Breed and worthy of the title of Champion, be it earned by points, CC or CACIB”?

10.) JUDGING ETIQUETTE

1. *How should I treat ring stewards?*

It is imperative that you treat the ring stewards politely and with respect even when explaining your ring procedure, i.e., how you want the dogs brought into the ring, etc. A good ring steward can be an asset to a Judge, particularly in regards to the schedule. If you are faced with an inexperienced ring steward, be patient and helpful. You may have to watch their actions more closely with the first few Breeds to ensure that you are not judging the wrong dogs or handing out the wrong ribbons. If on the other hand, the ring steward is creating delays or other problems, you may advise the show Superintendent in a polite manner that you would like to have a replacement.

2. *How should I treat Club Officials?*

As with ring stewards, all committee members should be treated with respect. Remember, they are all volunteers, not your servants. The reputation of a condescending attitude spreads quickly from club to club. In the event that a problem should arise such as poor accommodations, meals, etc., it should be addressed with the show chair or Superintendent, in a polite manner.

3. *How should I handle offensive behavior by exhibitors or spectators?*

Depending upon the severity of the behavior, you may have to call for the Superintendent. Should this occur in the midst of judging, simply ask the rest of the class to relax but do not allow the complainant in question to leave the ring before the Superintendent arrives. Never get in arguments or discussions with exhibitors or spectators. If the situation warrants, a hearing may be required at the appropriate time according to the CKC Rules & Regulations. (CSR)

4. *How should I treat professional handlers?*

Treat everyone (handlers included) equally. Everyone paid the same entry fee!

5. *Should I be concerned about awarding handlers too many ribbons?*

As a Judge, you have one job.....to judge *the dogs* and let the ribbons fall where they may. Focus on the dogs, not how many times an exhibitor/handler comes into your ring. In the long run you will earn more respect. Conversely, do not become a Judge who tries to satisfy everyone by “spreading it around”.

6. *How do you address an exhibitor who asks why you did not place his dog?*

Keep your explanation brief and to the point. Do not allow the conversation to become argumentative. (CSR)

11.) PROFESSIONALISM IN JUDGING

1. What is meant by “professional ethics” for a dog Judge?

Professional ethics refers to the conduct of a Judge. According to the CKC Guidelines, “the general conduct of a Judge on the show site both in and out of the ring must be beyond reproach. Inappropriate remarks or actions should be avoided at all times”.

2. What do I say when an exhibitor asks for my honest opinion of his dog and when should I do it?

The discussion should be kept to a minimum and in such a manner that it does not interfere with your judging schedule. Preferably it should be done at the end of your day or at a time that will not disrupt the judging schedule. It is also recommended to have the exhibitor bring the dog with them so that you can comment accurately. Some Judges will try to incorporate something positive in their explanation or point out an area that could be “improved”, particularly where novice exhibitors are concerned. In the end your comments should be brief and to the point and always polite. (CSR)

3. Is it appropriate to attend social functions when exhibitors are present?

A club should advise the Judge in advance if a dinner is being arranged as some Judges do make other plans. In the end, it is up to you whether to attend or not. Should you decide to go always remember to conduct yourself in a professional manner.

4. How should I expect to be treated by dog clubs?

You should expect to be given the same respect and courtesy that you would extend to them.

12.) JUDGING IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

1. Where can I find information on judging procedures in other countries?

There are two primary sources: the kennel club of the Country, and other Judges who have judged abroad. Most foreign kennel clubs do have guidelines and standards that can be sent in a hard copy format if you are unable to download it from their website.

2. Are the CKC breed standards much different than in other countries?

Yes, some standards do differ in foreign Countries. Some Breeds have disqualifications, size, colors, that may only be regarded as a fault in our Country or visa versa.

3. Where can I find official Breed standards for other Countries?

Most foreign clubs can and should provide you with standards from their Country. Other options are the website or perhaps another Judge will loan you their Breed standards.

13.) GROUND TRAVEL EXPENSES

1. What is the going rate for ground travel mileage?

The average can vary from Province to Province. Most Judges charge approximately

forty to fifty cents per km. While other Judges may use the rate as set by Revenue Canada.

2. *From what point is the ground mileage calculated?*

When using your own vehicle, calculate return trips from your door to the show hotel and then from the hotel to the show site,(portal to portal). Parking fees, tolls, if any should also be included.

14.) AIR TRAVEL WITHIN CANADA

1. *Is it permissible to charge mileage to and from the airport?*

Any out of pocket expenses relating to travel is legitimate. Expenses may include taxi, shuttle or your own personal vehicle. These expenses should also include return trips as well as any parking fees or tolls.

2. *When booking air travel, is it permissible to contact the show chair to discuss scheduling for the last day of the show?*

While it is permissible to contact the show chairperson to discuss accommodating the judging schedule with your itinerary, it should be realized that when you are hired, *it is for the whole day*. Clubs should not be expected to accommodate your travel plans. Depending upon the overall show entry, most clubs are willing to accommodate a Judge with an earlier flight schedule particularly as it may save the club an additional hotel expense.

15.) AIR TRAVEL TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

1. *What do you do if your lift does not arrive at the airport?*

To avoid such problems, it is always best to maintain a line of communication with a club member prior to the show. If possible take the names and phone numbers of at least two contact club members. Be sure to have the name and phone number of the Hotel where you will be staying. Allow yourself sufficient time to wait as there may be a traffic delay. If no one arrives, arrange a cab to the hotel. If you do not know the name of the hotel, try to find one from a known chain. Be sure to keep the receipts for any out of pocket expenses you may incur. It is always wise to have at least one clear credit card on hand particularly in foreign countries. This situation can arise as easily at home as abroad.

2. *How do I judge in a foreign Country if I do not speak the language?*

Most clubs, no matter what the Country, have some club members who speak more than one language. Often they will provide you with an interpreter or a ring steward who can speak English.

16.) FURTHER EDUCATION

1. *What can I do to further my education in dogs?*

Further education can be obtained in many ways. There are numerous Breed seminars, Judge's educational groups and specialties available. Visiting well-established kennels or

talking to respected breeders is another avenue. On-line seminars, videos, books or various websites can offer a wealth of knowledge. It is imperative that you maintain an on-going educational profile as per CKC Policies:

c) Licensed judges are encouraged and expected to engage in a self-directed program of professional development. Recognizing that a Judge has a commitment to on-going education, all Judges will maintain an educational portfolio with appropriate documentation and/or certification. This portfolio will be reviewed and approved by The Canadian Kennel Club at the end of each five (5) year cycle.

[Board Motion #25-12-12] Should a Judge fail to meet these requirements, the Judge's license will be held in abeyance until such time that the requirement is met.

2. How do I get advanced education for new Breeds?

Attend as many presentations as possible or search for appropriate websites. Often parent clubs will have a host of information or contact name(s).

3. Should I continue with a mentor throughout my Permit judging term?

Mentoring and continuing education should be an ongoing process and is mandated by the CKC. Keep up with any changes regarding the CKC Rules, Regulations and Guidelines. Be well versed on any changes to Breed standards or the introduction of new breeds. It is YOUR responsibility!

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