



## **ANKC LTD GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES**

**Adopted October 2010**

### **PRIOR TO THE SHOW**

#### **Assignments**

Do not solicit or promote assignments for yourself.

#### **Invitations**

Clubs should send you written invitations and contracts for assignments.

Contracts should clearly specify the breeds and/or groups you are being asked to judge.

It is your responsibility to acknowledge judging invitations promptly. Careful record keeping and prompt written response to invitations helps eliminate unnecessary confusion and conflict for both judges and show-giving clubs. Take your copy of the original contract to the show.

#### **Travel Between Assignments**

In consideration of the possibility of delays, you should not accept assignments on consecutive days where more than a few hours travel by ground transportation is involved. When you accept an invitation, you are committing yourself to the show-giving club for your entire assignment as scheduled.

#### **Expenses**

When you accept an invitation, clearly inform club officials in your contract what your fee is and what your expenses will likely be. The more specifics you include in the contract, the less potential for misunderstanding there will be. When you sign a contract, you and the club are responsible.

#### **Attending Shows**

If you attend shows in the area before events you are to judge, for the benefit of perception, it is recommended that you do not watch the breeds you are scheduled to judge.

You can combine exhibiting and judging without a problem if you are prudent as to how and when you exhibit. If you choose to exhibit, you should expect to be subject to scrutiny.

#### **Social Functions**

It is proper to attend a function given by the host club. You have the option of attending club dinners and other social functions where exhibitors will be present. Take care to avoid even the appearance of impropriety with any exhibitor who might appear in your ring. You may occasionally find that you will have to tactfully change the subject or excuse yourself from a conversation that involves breeds or exhibitors whom you are likely to judge.

#### **“Grey areas”**

When faced with such a dilemma, ask yourself whether the situation, however innocent, projects an outward appearance of impropriety. A good rule of thumb is: If you have concerns about whether something is inappropriate, you probably should avoid the situation.

### **Fitness to Judge**

It is essential that a dog show judge be physically capable of performing the functions necessary to properly judge dogs. You must have:

- The manoeuvrability to negotiate a ring both indoors and outdoors, with or without mechanical assistance, e.g., a wheelchair, crutches or a cane. The flexibility to examine all parts of a dog's anatomy where each breed is typically presented (i.e. on the ground, or on a table). The dexterity to move at a sufficient speed to adhere to the schedule of the show-giving club, and
- The capability to remain focused on task and control the ring for the duration of the assignment. Normal vision (correctable by eyeglasses or contact lenses).

### **Illness**

Judges are expected to be physically fit and capable of completing their contracted assignment. If you learn that you will not be able to fulfil an assignment because of illness or other serious occurrence, immediately notify the Show Secretary by telephone, e-mail or fax.

Always travel with contact information. If you are delayed en route to a show, immediately make every effort to contact the Show Secretary or other club official.

### **Be on Time**

Allow at least one half hour to report to the Show Secretary or Chief Steward prior to the show.

### **During your judging assignment**

Mobile Phones and other electronic devices must be turned off while judging. Telephone calls should never be made or received by the judge while in the ring.

### **Proper Attire**

Judges should wear professional attire suitable for the job at hand.

Gentlemen should wear coats and ties (weather permitting), and ladies should dress accordingly. Ties, scarves, hats, vests, jewellery or anything else that may dangle into the dogs' line of vision should be secured away from proximity to the dogs. Above all, avoid inappropriate, conspicuous or outlandish dress. Women should not wear skirts that are too short or too cumbersome, and they should avoid noisy, dangling jewellery.

### **In the judging Ring**

You have the responsibility to be thoughtful and considerate as you judge according to all ANKC Ltd Rules, Policies and Guidelines. Be as systematic in your ring procedure from dog to dog and class to class as conditions permit, but do take the time to encourage apparent newcomers and novices. Avoid making inappropriate comments to exhibitors in or out of the ring. Be polite, but generally limit your conversation with exhibitors to instructions on positioning or gaiting the dogs.

### **Check the Ring**

Before starting to judge, quickly inspect the ring you have been assigned. Determine how you intend to use the ring and look for unsafe conditions, whether it is a loose mat or a depression in the grass. Always double check the security of the legs on the examination table and its stability.

When outdoors, consider how to best take advantage of shade or shelter in order to provide the most comfort for the dogs and the exhibitors. Do not direct dogs or exhibitors to stand in the elements for any longer than is absolutely necessary.

### **Speed of Judging**

Never delay your judging at the request of an exhibitor. A new breed judge is expected to be capable of judging a minimum of 30 dogs an hour, and experienced judges at least 35 dogs an hour. It would be unreasonable to expect a Judge to judge more than 45 dogs per hour.

Develop a consistent, methodical, efficient ring procedure that will help you maintain the proper pace.

### **Individual Examination of Dogs**

Examine every dog in the same objective, breed-specific manner even if a poor specimen may clearly be out of the ribbons.

Approach dogs calmly. Examine each with a gentle but sure touch and no sudden, surprising moves.

Examine table breeds on the table only. To re-examine them, have them put back on the table.

A thorough and complete breed-specific examination does not include excessive touching beyond feeling for breed-specific characteristics and specific points of reference. Touch and examine only as much as is necessary to complete a thorough, breed-specific examination, but touch no more.

Always judge dogs solely on the basis of their condition and as they are presented in the ring on the day of the show.

Give no consideration to what a dog's quality or condition could be at some future time. Avoid excessive rearranging of a dog's coat, whistling, gesturing or baiting. However, do not hesitate to feel for breed specific traits or reference points to determine actual structure especially beneath a highly groomed coat. Know and utilize the breed Standard effective on the date of judging. Be systematic in your ring procedure, but do not be afraid to make adjustments when conditions warrant it. Make all your instructions to exhibitors absolutely clear. Line up the dogs first, second, third, in front of the markers before marking the judge's book or handing out the ribbons. As a judge, you may ask your steward to mark your judge's book but you are ultimately responsible for the correctness of the entries.

### **At the conclusion of judging**

Prior to leaving the showground, check with the Secretary to ensure that all your paperwork is in order.

When settling your expenses ensure that the club is not left to pay hotel/motel bills for phone calls, alcohol or meals that were not authorised by the club.