



**NZ Dog Judges
Association Inc**

NZDJA

Autumn 2018

BOARD

PATRONESS:
Annette Buxton

PRESIDENT:
Ray Greer
Ph 09 292 9449
shelton117@outlook.com

VICE PRESIDENT
Kaye Finlayson
Ph 03 347 0059
kenterprizes@xtra.co.nz

SECRETARY
Debbie Hull
Ph 07 849 3467
rclassi@xtra.co.nz

TREASURER
Lesley Chalmers
Ph 03 312 0413
merthyr@xtra.co.nz

REGION CHAIRPERSONS

REGION 1
Kathleen Hardwick
Ph 07 826 4554
daxford@xtra.co.nz

REGION 2
Linda Strongman
Ph 07 828 4750
lynmar@xtra.co.nz

REGION 3
Betty Parker
Ph 06 355 9126
betty.parker@outlook.co.nz

REGION 4
Lavina Diamanti
Ph 03 578 6998
lavina.diamanti@gmail.com

REGION 5
Mark Lawrence
Ph 03 318 8120
markl-cathm@xtra.co.nz

From the President—*Ray Greer*

Hello Judges & fellow members

From the outset I would like to thank my fellow board members & especially Kaye & Lavina for stepping into the breach for judges over the last 5 months. I have been hospitalized during most of that time and the board has continued business as usual during my absence.

Also in that mix was the resignation of Mrs. Jill Brooker as Treasurer and board member. At the boards f2f meeting in May Mrs. Leslie Chalmers was offered that role to which she accepted, and with that appointment we welcome Leslies vast wealth of administration and judging knowledge to our judges board.

The written examination papers for this year were either re-written or heavily refreshed, in keeping with the boards objects of ensuring that rote-learning of answers from old papers was not a good way of achieving our goals of producing quality judges. To all of those involved a big thank-you...it is not an easy task. We did streamline the specialist panel process in our November 2017 regulation updates, these procedures recognize the applicants years in the breed, and new requirements are more in keeping with our core written & practical examination processes. Congratulations to all of those who passed & remember a fail is only for a year – not for life!

What was welcomed by our members was the practicing Certificate, something that the board appreciated but none the less were surprised by the level of interest. Further down in this newsletter you will see a section on that topic & that as a one-off the 31st January 2018 intake close off date for applications has been extended to 31st Mayhowever the qualifying for this year still has to have been achieved by the 31st January.

Our 2018 Annual conference is headed by another of our core drivers “Form & Function – Country of Origin” and there will be some very interesting anecdotal and memorable stories to be told here. Knowing this information and applying it in your judging will undoubtedly make you a better judge. Our practical examination process is hinged around this, so your knowledge of the breed has to extend beyond the official breed standard. This conference aims to trigger that extended learning process. I look forward to seeing many of our fellow judges at this conference.

PURINA®

PROPLAN®

AGM & Conference Information

NZDJA 6th Annual General Meeting & Conference

24th June 2018

at the Brentwood Hotel,
16 Kemp Street, Wellington

Please note every judge may attend and vote. Voting is no longer on a branch basis.

AGM Agenda

9:00am Conference commences

Agenda to include:

- Subscriptions for the ensuing year
- Announcement of Election results
- Election of Honorary Officers
- Remits and recommendations to be considered
- General business

10:30am Morning tea for all attendees

Annual Conference of the NZDJA

10:45am Form and Function, and Origins of Breeds – a series of presentations

12:30pm Lunch (Note lunch is optional but must be booked at a cost of \$25.00 per head)

1:15pm Challenges or Chocolates – a discussion on awarding CCs

1:45pm Sponsors Address – Debra Anderson, Nestlé Purina Petcare

2:00pm General discussion points from the floor

3:00pm Close

All judges are encouraged to attend and will earn 20 credit points.

Registration forms have been sent to all branches.

Practicing Certificate

The Practicing Certificate was introduced late last year following a recommendation passed at the 2017 AGM. The purpose of the certificate is to provide a measure for contracting clubs indicating that judge is actively involved in education activities.

At the recent NZJDJA Board meeting it was acknowledged that there was only a small window of opportunity to submit applications for the 2018 practicing certificate and many didn't

meet the qualifying deadline of 31st January.

The board resolved to extend this as a once only and allow applications up to 31st May 2018. Qualifying criteria must be as at the 31st January. Future applications will need to be submitted by the specified cut off date, currently 31st January each year. Credit and applications forms are available on the NZDJA website

“Every judge may attend and vote. Voting is no longer on a branch basis

Overseas Appointments

We are lucky here in NZ that we enjoy reciprocal relations with our Australian counterparts. This means that once we have completed our first group assignment in NZ we are can freely accept appointments in Australia without reference to Dogs NZ. In all other cases the countries governing body should seek confirmation from Dogs NZ as to your qualifications. This is normal procedure. It is recommended that Dogs NZ be contacted before signing any contract to ensure you are permitted to judge the breeds / groups requested. In some countries you can not judge a breed unless you are licenced to do so in NZ and remembering that you could possibly be allocated breeds in a group that are not recognised here. It is worth noting that NZDJA has no authority to approve an overseas judging appointment, this must be done through Dogs NZ.

The other factor to take into account is whether or not the club is recognised by Dogs NZ. Not all clubs in all countries come under the banner of the recognised parent body. Judges officiating at a show for a club not recognised by Dogs NZ may be subject to severe penalties. For any appointment other than Australia, please check with the Director/Secretary of Dogs NZ first.

Once you have approval to judge, your next step will be getting a visa to enter the country. There have been instances of judges not being able to get entry permission as they have applied for a work visa. Different countries have different policies and the definition of work varies as do the requirements. Judges coming to NZ come on a holiday permit. If in doubt, please check.

Once you have got past those hurdles you will need to familiarise yourself with the breed standards and judging format for the

country you are going to. We are so lucky now to have so much information available on the internet but to make sure, we suggest you ask the club for the official breed standards. Remembering that you are required to judge to their standard, not ours. So often we see frustrated exhibitors where judges come to NZ and do not judge to our standards, the same applies to you.

Some countries will also require you to critique each dog. These critiques are then published. Time to polish up on your skills here!

Don't be afraid to ask for some guidance before you leave. Talk to some of our senior judges who have a lot of experience judging overseas. They will be able to give you guidance on everything from negotiating the airport, to foreign language challenges right through to how to deal with judging a huge class of dogs.

Finally, don't forget the NZDJA code of ethics. You are representing NZ whilst away and your behaviour should always reflect that.

Have fun and enjoy the experience.

It is worth noting that NZDJA has no authority to approve an overseas judging appointment, this must be done through Dogs NZ.

Practical Exams—What you need to know.

AUCKLAND

Auckland Branch of NZDJA will be holding the practical examination Open Shows over the weekend of 21st and 22nd July at the Blackhawk Auckland Exhibition Centre Indoor Arena. Starting at 8.30am each day. Saturday will be Gundogs and Non-Sporting, and Sunday will be Hounds plus the Specialist Breed Exams for St Bernard and Rottweiler,

Entry fee \$5.00, excellent catering, spot prizes and raffles and generous sponsorship from our principal sponsor ProPlan.

As there will be 3 Candidates for each of the 3 group examinations we ideally require at least 50 dogs per group. This will enable our aspiring judges to examine and adjudicate on as many breeds as possible and save having to "recycle" the dogs. This is less tiring for the exhibits and easier for the judges and handlers.

For the Specialist breeds we require a minimum of 6 adult dogs/bitches. Please come along and support your fellow Judge Candidates.

A reminder that Credit points are available for examination shows.

CHRISTCHURCH

Christchurch Branch of NZDJA will be holding the practical examination Open Shows on one day only this year being Saturday 28 July at Canterbury Kennel Assn grounds, McLeans Island.

There are 4 Group Candidates sitting— 1 in each Group - Working, Gundogs, Hounds & Non-Sporting plus a Specialist Breed exam for Newfoundlands. This candidate needs at least six dogs in the breed.

Once again we have our principal sponsor ProPlan who have generously given their wonderful product as prizes. We also give back in money and rosettes from our entry fee of \$5.00. We will provide all those entering and our Candidates FREE food, tea and coffee and make sure you have anything else necessary to make this as stress free as possible. Each group is approximately an hour or so for the judging and the examiners to go over those breeds with the candidates.

Your entries are very important so please take the time to support those candidates by entering our Open Show.

"Once again we have our principal sponsor ProPlan who have generously given their wonderful product as prizes."

2018/19 Important Dates

May 31st 2018
Practising Certificate extension close off

June 24th
Annual Conference

July 21st & 22nd
Practical Examinations
Auckland

July 28th
Practical Examinations
Christchurch

January 31st 2019
Applications for promotion close.

Preparing for Practical Exams

Congratulations on passing your theory exam. That is the first hurdle overcome. You will now be preparing for your practical examination. If this is your first group exam you will no doubt be nervous and unsure as to what to expect. If you have exhibited at the examination shows previously you will have some idea as to the proceedings. If you are already on the group panel or a doing a re-sit you will be more comfortable with the process but as expected, will still be nervous.

Before exam day

Preparation is paramount. The better prepared you are, the less likely you are to falter due to nerves. You have already demonstrated your knowledge of the breed standards by passing the theory exam but you will be expected to recall the standards (can be in your words), especially the key elements for that breed. You will also be expected to demonstrate your knowledge of the history of each breed, the form and function and how this makes each breed unique. Where there are similar breeds, e.g Welsh Pembroke Corgi and Welsh Cardigan Corgi, be sure you can identify the differences between them.

You will be required to critique in full at least one dog. The examiners are looking for you to verbalise what you are seeing and what you found when you went over the dog. Practice critiquing at every opportunity. A good idea is to use photographs, videos etc so you can do it at home. Be careful not to quote the standard if it does not apply to the dog in front of you. Don't say "short backed and cobby" if the dog you are critiquing clearly has a back longer than required.

After you have judged a few dogs, the examiners will ask you to justify your decisions. Often, we know Dog B is the better specimen—the key at exam time is being able to explain it. Practice with photographs of different dogs. Practice speaking out loud and explaining your placings using breed specific terminology. Get family members or other judges to help you with this.

The examiners will also expect you to know the height and weight requirements for each breed and be able to ascertain if the dogs in front of you conform to the requirements in the standard. To help you with this, get a tape measure and make markings on your leg. Know what the height looks like in comparison to your own calf, knee, mid thigh etc. Don't forget to adjust for the height of your shoe heel. If you are going to have some table dogs which only have a weight standard, practice feeling what different weights are like. Pick up heavy objects and try to guess their weight then check on the scales to see how close you were.

Don't forget that you will receive a list of the breeds entered prior to the day, so in your last week do as much prep on these breeds as possible.

On the day

Be at your venue with time to spare. Make sure you are dressed appropriately and are wearing comfortable shoes. Ladies remember the height of your skirt when bending over and don't wear floaty skirts and scarves or jewellery that dangles. Gentlemen ensure your tie is not hanging in the dogs face, wear a tie pin if necessary.

"Preparation is paramount. The better prepared you are, the less likely you are to falter due to nerves."

Preparing for Practical Exams—cont.

Don't wear perfume or aftershave as this can upset some dogs.

You will be assessed on your communication with your steward and the exhibitors. When making decisions be positive and clear with your instructions. Do your best to relax, enjoy and smile.

The examiners know you are nervous. They are there to pass you and will do everything they can to make it a relaxed atmosphere.

Plan your ring set up. You will be assessed as if judging 250 dogs in a day. Timing and efficiency of ring procedure is important. Place your table in a position that will give you maximum ring efficiency and close enough to your steward so neither of you is having to do lots of walking.

When judging the dogs go over each exhibit the same way, from nose to tail, and all parts in between. Be positive in your examination. Get in under the coat of coated breeds, check the ear and tail length if required in the standard, check the tail set. Check the coat for texture. The examiners will be looking at the way you handle the dogs and will expect to see you demonstrate thorough examination. Ensure you have checked male dogs—this is an area some candidates forget. Remember it is an open show, and you may find a neutered male.

Gait each dog the same. Don't start doing triangles and change to out and backs half way through.

Be positive when awarding your placings. If you have a difficult decision—just make a decision. Remember you only have two minutes per dog.

After you have judged a few breeds the examiners will ask for the placed exhibits to return to the ring and they will then question you on your decisions. They want to know you have a good sound knowledge and can justify your placings. Judging is subjective and your opinion may be different to someone else's but you must be able to justify it.

Look for the positives in each and every dog. Don't fault judge. Use words like "I would prefer more of....." or "I preferred dog A's head because..."

Keep it simple, state facts and don't dig yourself a hole! If you make a mistake, admit it. If you didn't check something, say you didn't check it. Don't guess what you don't know.

You will be asked if you would award your best dog and bitch a challenge. Remember the challenge certificate states "that in your opinion this dog is worthy of the title of Champion". Think about the breed standard, does it have sufficient breed type? What about the origins and function of the breed? Could this dog do what it was bred for? Is it sound in gait and temperament? Explain your decision based on these points.

At the end of your judging thank your steward, the examiners and those who entered. We are all very grateful for their continued support.

Good luck.

"Plan your ring set up. You will be assessed as if judging 250 dogs in a day. Timing and efficiency of ring procedure is important."

RECENT PROMOTIONS

The following candidates completed the requirements for promotion. Their appointments were approved by the Board and ratified by Executive Council.

Ribbon Parade Panel

- ◆ Erica Jellyman
- ◆ Kathryn Stewart
- ◆ Sandi Meads

Open Show Panel

- ◆ Teresa Lawrence
- ◆ Debra Sheddon
- ◆ William Hansen
- ◆ Trish Andrews
- ◆ Hermoine Peach
- ◆ Paul Goodwill
- ◆ Charmaine Hoeben
- ◆ Nicole Adams

Specialist Panel

- ◆ Hermoine Peach (Beagle)

Further promotions to the Specialist Breed Panel are awaiting ratification.

In addition the following were appointed to the **Aspiring Panel**

- ◆ Arvine Gamlin
- ◆ Allison McArthur

Website Changes

Recent updates to the website have been implemented. These are;-

- * Members only section, this will include minutes and financial reports.
- * Addition of the Practicing Certificate column on the judges list.
- * Addition of an icon to take you to the judges contact information
- * Ability to click on judges email address to create a new email

All judges are encouraged to create a login password either by clicking on the Judges Login icon and requesting a password reset or contacting the webmaster lavina.diamanti@gmail.com for a new password. You will then be able to access the Members Only section, update your judges profile and update your contact information.

Specialist promotions

There has been some confusion regarding the changes to the Specialist Panels. To re-iterate :

You can apply for promotion without examination if you have been on the relevant championship panel for at least 5 years otherwise you are required to sit theory and practical examinations including the theory paper on rules, regs and anatomy (if you haven't already done so).

In either case you are required to provide proof of your status as a breed specialist by supplying supporting information. It is expected that our specialist panel judges have a superior knowledge of their breed which includes extensive experience exhibiting and breeding. Applications should include evidence to support this. For more information refer to the NZDJA Judges Regulations.

All judges are encouraged to create a login password .