



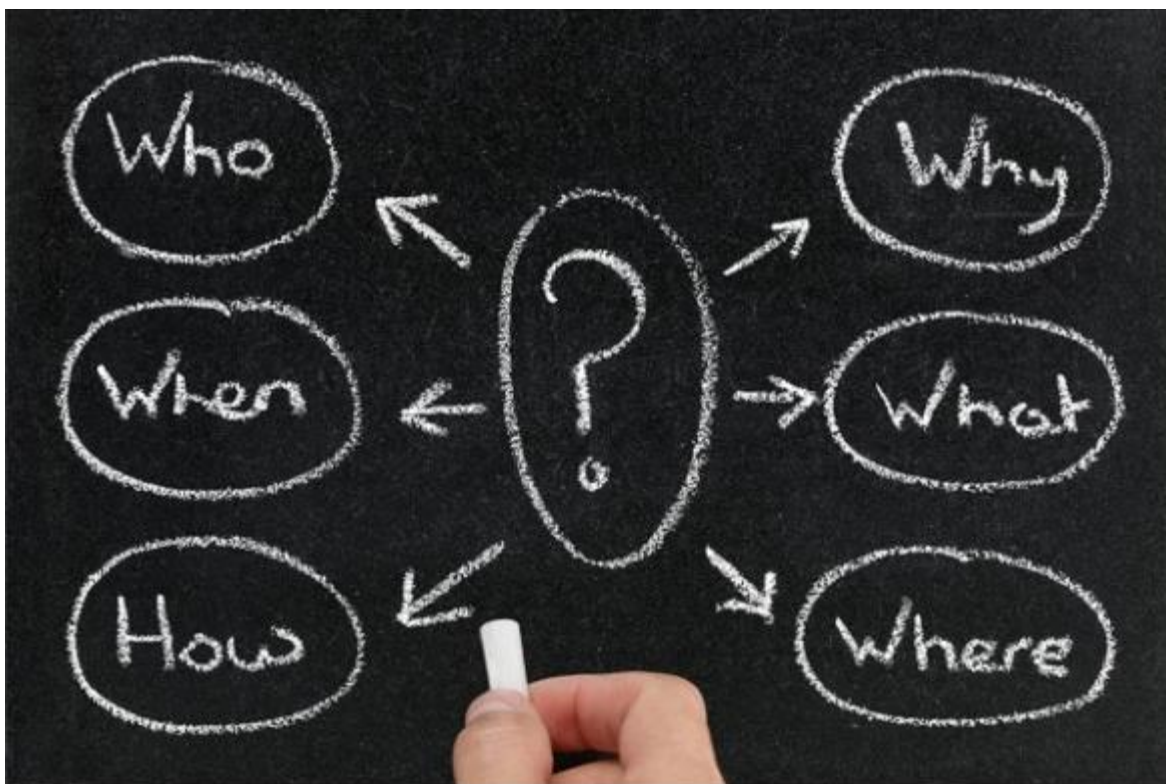
INTRODUCTION DOCUMENT

JUDGES BREED OBSERVATIONS SCHEME

New Zealand Dog Judges Association

March 2021

Continued development and improvement of systems that enhance the ability and quality of dog show judges and pedigree dogs in New Zealand and on the world stage.



Who?

New Zealand Dog Judges Association (NZDJA) has a commitment to ensure that its judges are conversant with the Breed Standards and how they are applied to exhibits while completing assignments in New Zealand and overseas.

This is a commitment by NZDJA, the New Zealand Kennel Club and in conjunction with breeders' via-Clubs, for the ongoing welfare and future preservation and development of our pedigree breeds.

What?

The proposed Judges Breed Observations (JBO) Scheme highlights breeds that have been listed as prone to possible exaggerations due to misinterpretation of the Breed Standard. They are a reminder that more is not better!

The Judges Breed Observations (JBO) Document has been modelled on the Breed Specific Instruction (BSI) document issued by the Nordic Kennel Union (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden).

The forms and the recording system that wrap around it, are the tools that allow a judge to communicate any improvements in the breeds they have judged as well as giving them the opportunity to record concerns they may have observed in unlisted breeds.

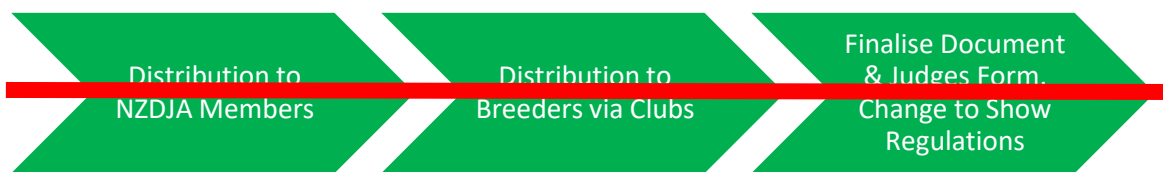
When?

The proposed timeline for final release of the document and implementation of this system was;

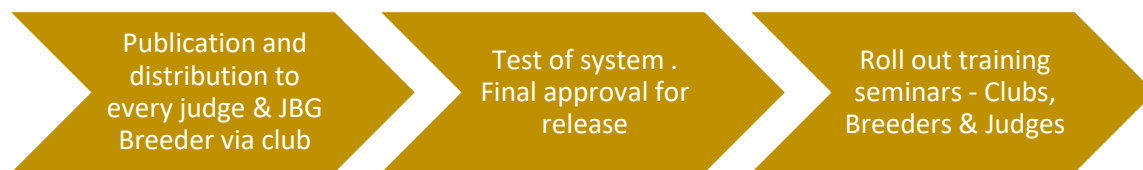
May 2020



June/December 2020



January 2021-May 2021

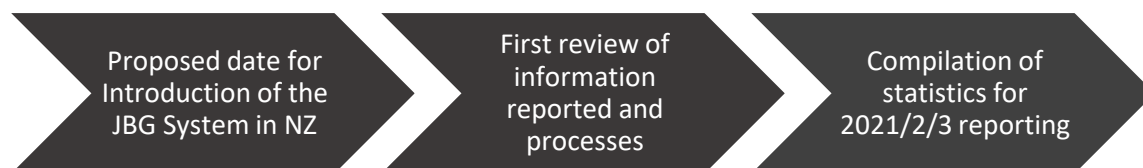


2021, 2022 2023

1 June 2021

1 June 2022

1 June 2024



Second Edition

2024 End of April

1 June 2024



The start date may be optimistic but we will keep members informed and updated.

Where?

The system will apply to all Championship Shows in New Zealand, from Breed Club level through to All Breeds Championship Shows. It will apply to both New Zealand and International Judges. New Zealand judges who officiate in the Nordic regions will have already experienced this system.

Why?

As long as there have been dogs, indeed any animal, there have been people who assess them looking for the best example of that animal. For almost as long – there has been debate over who holds the greatest influence on a breed – the breeder or the judge!

In the modern day, breeders and exhibitors, and pedigree dogs themselves, are readily identifiable. As such, the pedigree dog world is being held to account for many of the health and welfare issues found in all dogs, judicially bred or not. Rightly or wrongly the world of dog breeding is under the spotlight. Therefore it is imperative that we are seen to uphold the highest of standards in everything we do – judges, breeders and exhibitors. Collectively we make up our canine controlling body, but individually we need to take responsibility for all of our actions within the pedigree dog world.

Canine controlling bodies and breeders around the world battle to stay ahead of the movement against pedigree breeds. Now is the time that judges, as senior members of the dog world, also claimed some responsibility in ensuring only specimens with optimal combination of breed type and soundness are awarded in the show ring. To be successful in achieving this, they must be aware of the issues to health and welfare of dogs who present with exaggerated type.

How?

At the completion of judging any of the breeds listed in the JBO, the judge will complete the forms to be entered into the JBO Database, they can post the forms to NZDJA secretary who will forward them to the scheme co-ordinator, or they can be scanned and emailed to jbo.nzdja@gmail.com. Eventually an online system will be developed so the forms can be filled out electronically.

Proposed changes to the existing system include;

- The Stewards Sheet will be altered to have a tick box for any breed that is required to have an observation recorded.
- The Show Regulations will be altered to allow for the process to be embedded into the show system.
- The change to the judging system will be notified to all club secretaries so they are aware of the scheme.
- Training will be rolled out to all New Zealand Judges, as well as targeted training for Show Managers, Show Secretaries and Stewards. Breeders and owners will also be invited to attend.

However, ultimately it is the judges' responsibility to ensure the forms are completed and the information is shared to NZDJA.

Important

This document is for judges alone and has no bearing on any breed LRL's, registration, eligibility to be exhibited or bred from etc. There is no recording of information about individual exhibits or exhibitors, just a note about any issues found – **or not found** within a breed. There remain no Disqualifying Faults in New Zealand so no dogs are removed from exhibition.

It is a guidance document only.

New Zealand Kennel Club & NZDJA

It is important to both organisations, that NZDJA takes some formal responsibility in the welfare of the purebred dog. This proposed scheme endeavors to protect our:

- Pedigree dog breeds,
- Pedigree dog breeders, and
- Pedigree dog judges.

To external stakeholders, it represents an approach that is separate to NZKC, but of equivalent value. This separate approach is viewed as crucial because judges are frequently condemned by external stakeholders as rewarding extremes in our breeds.

While we have no intention of entering the chicken and egg debate about just who is responsible for the future of our breeds, that debate should never stand in the way of this scheme

This scheme will be administered by a sub-committee for the first three years, which coincides with the period of the first annual review.

The JBO Committee

► **Lynley Drummond**

Exhibitor and Breeder of Golden Retrievers and Gordon Setters
Member of the CH&W Committee

► **Professional life**

- Over 30 years experience in the food and dairy industries, together with academia, Lynley's expertise includes
 - Providing the bridge between science, commercialisation and working within an increasingly rigid regulatory environment.
 - The preparation of evidence-based dossiers for regulatory authorities around the world.
 - Strategic research and development planning & reviews, and



that our living circumstances (population density, social lifestyle, economic demographics etc.) mirror the NKU more closely than the United Kingdom.

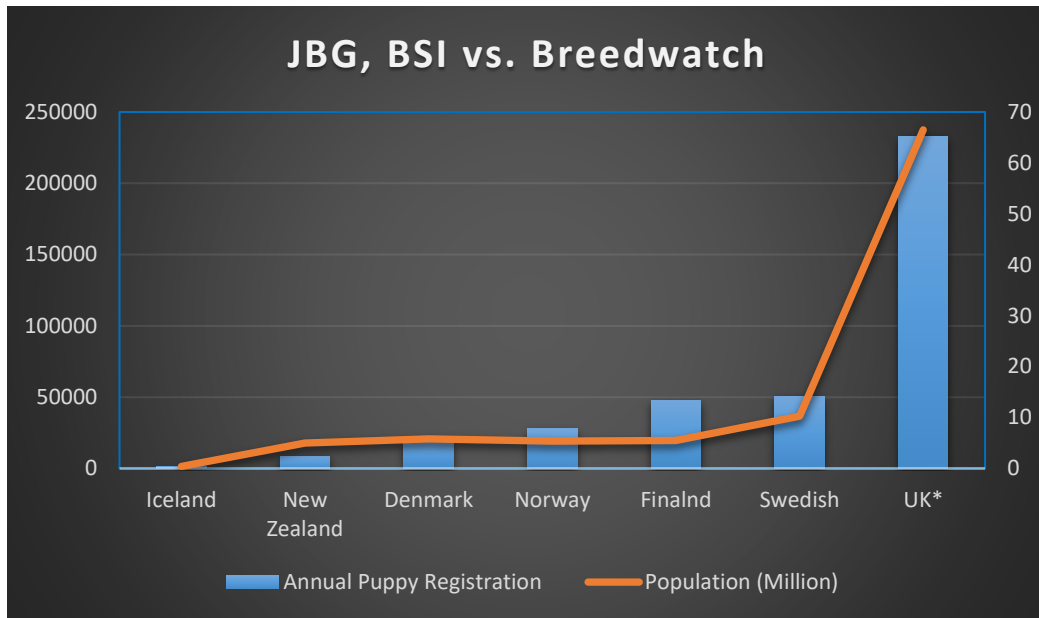


Figure 1 Comparative Population/Registration Statistics. Data from FCI Statistics and The Kennel Club Breed Registrations

There is growing evidence that New Zealand dogs live longer and healthier lives than our UK counterparts. They certainly live in less densely populated conditions and arguably therefore have reduced exposure to pollution/emissions/toxins, etc.

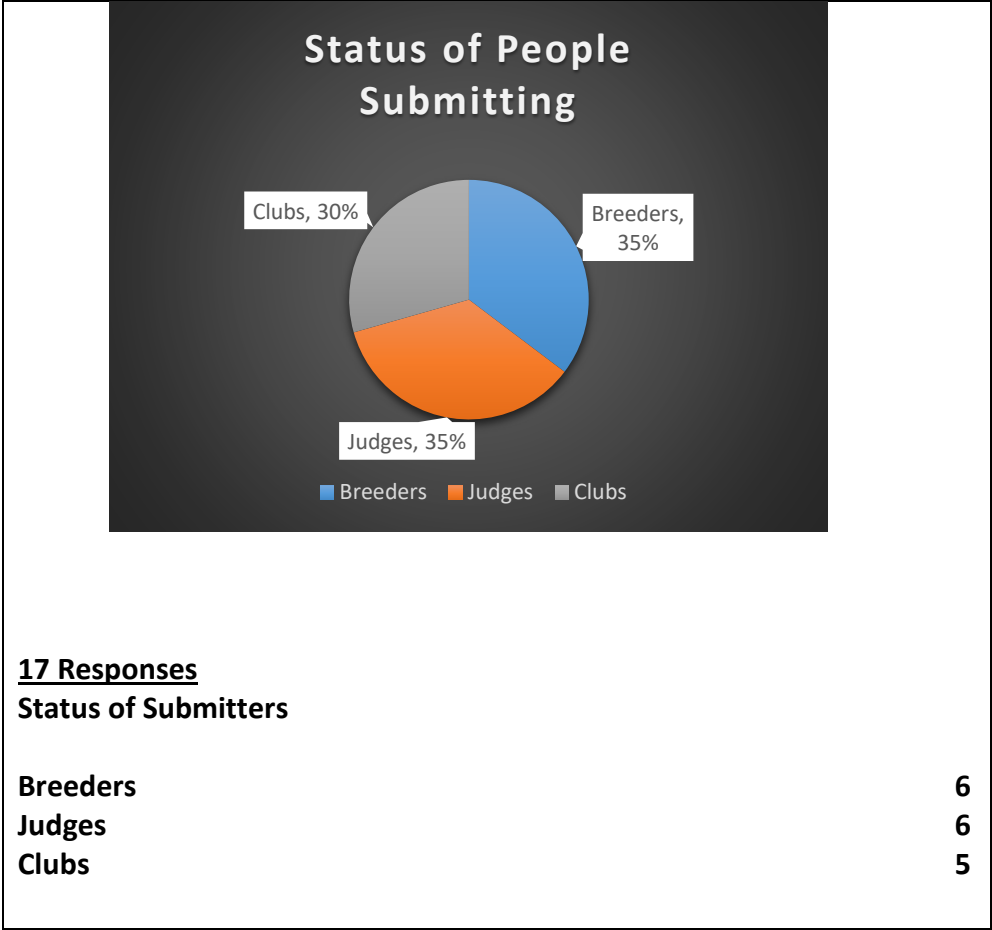
Given this information, all the while acknowledging that our “systems and many of our breed standards” are based on The Kennel Club, it is time stand apart from the UK when making comparisons with Animal Welfare issues. The Kennel Club have tended to become an anchor to our organisation, as opposed to a relevant example to be upheld as an ideal for comparison.

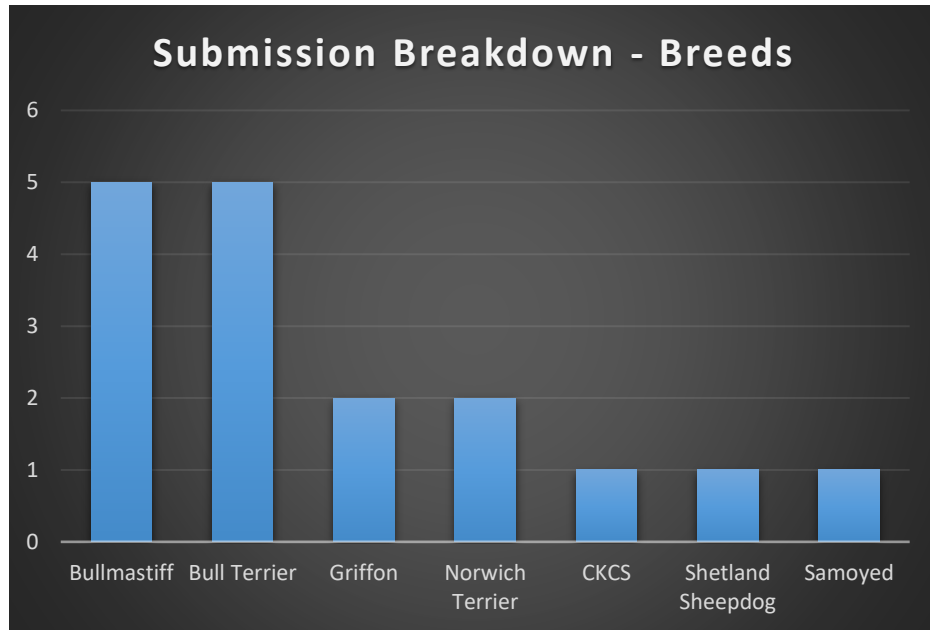
To adopt The Breed Watch scheme would also involve considerably more intrusion into our current operation for both organisations as well as exhibitors and breeders. To be listed as a category three breed has serious ramifications for the current show operating system and incur a serious financial cost

Category One	Category Two	Category Three
No visible health concerns have been reported by judges or breed club(s)/council. Optional breed health monitoring forms available in all championship show judges' packs to be returned if any points of concern found.	Breeds with Breed Watch points of concern – visible conditions or exaggerations that can cause pain or discomfort have been reported by judges and/or club(s)/council. After consultation with the breed club(s)/council, the concern is then added as a point of concern. Mandatory judges' reporting begins.	Breeds with Breed Watch points of concern, and have been determined by the Kennel Club Board as requiring particular monitoring and additional support. Best of Breed Veterinary Health Checks at general and group championship shows are required.

In conclusion, the NKU scheme was considered as the most acceptable recognised scheme that also offered non-invasive, low-cost methods that would quickly become intrinsic to our normal show system. At the same time it illustrates to external stakeholders that Judges and Breeders have a strong working relationship and the health and welfare of the breeds are of prime importance to all parties.

Submissions received and considered





The details and concerns provided in the submissions has been considered by the committee. The following changes have been incorporated;

- Breeds where there was mention of the neurological disorder SM have seen this removed.
- A form has been developed for each of the breeds listed in the JBO, with a section dedicated to just those issues.
- The name of the scheme was changed from Judges Breed Guidance to Judges Breed Observations to reflect the gentle approach that is being undertaken to collect data on the current health of our breeds.

The JBO Committee guarantees the following;

- Judges and Breeders will be given the opportunity to view any training documents/videos on areas of concern.
- None of the issues noted in the JBO require Veterinarian Training to be correctly observed. However the committee will be using a New Zealand Vet in the roll out and any ongoing training.
- NZDJA will continue to encourage breed clubs and breeders to help in the education of its judges.

Training

The training required for the completion of the forms will not be difficult, but it is important that this scheme is rolled out consistently to all members throughout the country and that it forms part of standard Judges training.

The JBO Document is self-explanatory regarding the issues breeds face and what is required to be observed, but we hasten to add there is no need for trained veterinarian qualifications to make these observations.

What we do see as necessary is education about the responsibility a judge has when awarding a challenge certificate and the impact of rewarding dogs of insufficient merit.

At this point, the favoured roll out will be via three seminars to be held in the Upper North Island, mid-lower North Island and in the South Island. It is intended that a video presentation might be made available that either the Branches will be responsible for delivering, or training will be available online to ensure all judges are reached.

The committee will use the skills of a qualified Veterinarian to talk through what to look for and more importantly, highlight what we can expect to see if exaggerations are allowed to continue in our breeds.

Celebrating Success

There are a number of reasons why Kiwi's don't celebrate success - from modesty through to being harvested as tall poppies by our peers if we pop our heads up.

But NZDJA has many members who have judged on the international stage and are well qualified to comment on the standard of our breeds here in New Zealand, compared to those overseas. It is time we used our extensive training and experience to educate our stakeholders on the correct status of our breeds.

Historically, we have had no formal process that allows us to do this, because we do not collect data or results and publish them in any way – let alone in a manner that is positive! This scheme is set to challenge the current perception of our external stakeholders – and in a positive way!

After three years - we look forward to being able to announce that both our Internationally Qualified New Zealand Judges AND our International Judges that visit NZ are confident that our breeds are amongst the healthiest in the world.