

NZDJA

Regulations tips



by Lavina Diamanti

Show regulations govern how our shows are run and judges should have a good understanding of them since they are part of our training. I also believe that exhibitors should have a knowledge of the regulations. On a number of occasions, I've witnessed situations that would have been avoided if the parties involved had a better understanding of the regulations. I am going to try and explain in simple language some of the Show Regulations that affect judges, exhibitors and show officials on a relatively regular basis, starting with one of my favourites.

At what point is a dog deemed absent?

Many exhibitors (and some stewards) believe this is after three calls or at a time when the steward decides they are not present. It is neither of these. Show Reg 19.16.1 states: "A dog will not be deemed absent from a class until the class has been assembled and is about to be passed over by the Judges Steward for the judge to commence judging." There is no requirement for a dog to be allowed into the ring after this point nor can a steward mark the dog absent prior to this point. This is just as important for judges, as well as exhibitors and stewards, to know, particularly if an exhibitor turns up late once you've commenced judging that class. The responsibility for being present and ready for judging rests solely with the exhibitor.

Can an exhibitor leave the show early and withdraw from the show?

Yes, but if they have already been judged and they are marked absent for group or in show judging they will forfeit all prizes and awards won at the show. This includes any CC awarded but does not apply to stakes classes. However, the Show Manager can approve withdrawal with no penalty in some circumstances. This includes injury or illness to the dog or circumstances beyond the control of the exhibitor, but must be first approved by the Show Manager.

Can an exhibitor be excused from the ring if the dog is scared or lame?

Absolutely, and in some situations this is preferable. No judge wants to non-award a dog or risk upsetting a puppy. Some judges will give the exhibitor the option to withdraw rather than decline an award. However, it is worth noting that if you withdraw from a class at that show, you cannot compete in any other classes (such as stake classes) you may be entered in at that show.

What if a dog has been entered in the wrong class?

This is a little more complex and can depend on whether the error was on the part of the exhibitor or the show secretary. My recommendation if this happens is to always consult firstly with the Show Secretary and secondly with the Show Manager, and also to check the show regulations as to what applies to that particular situation. This may require judging in the ring to stop until it is sorted out. Sometimes the dog can still be shown but in the open

class only. As an exhibitor, I always check the information label on the back of the number card and I also check in with the steward at least one breed ahead. I tell them the exhibit number, the class entered and whether it is a dog or bitch so if it has been incorrectly recorded on the stewarding sheet there is time to sort it out. With current online entry systems this doesn't occur very often. But if it does, the consequences can be quite distressing, especially if the correct class has already been judged.

Who decides whether a ramp is to be used?

This is at the sole discretion of the judge. However, the entire entry in that breed must be judged either on the ramp or on the ground. Simply put, the judge makes that decision, not the exhibitors. If you are unsure on whether your dog is a ramp breed or not, there is a list in Appendix One of the show regulations.

When are Miniature Dachshunds supposed to be weighed?

Show reg 19.1.1 states: "Immediately prior to entry in the ring for judging on a class by class basis. The official weighing the exhibits shall advise the judge of any over-weight exhibits." Regulation 19.1.3 also states: "The judge shall advise any exhibitors whose dog is over the weight of 5.00 kgs. The Judge may request that any such dog be re-weighed in their presence." In simple terms, dogs are to be weighed immediately prior to entering the ring for the class, not prior to the breed judging commencing.

What is the age a male dog should be entire?

All male dogs entered in regular classes (not neuter or classes where neuter can compete) must be entire after the age of nine months. (This was changed from six months some years ago.) The judge must excuse the dog from the ring if they believe it is not entire and the steward must make a note on the stewarding sheet which the judge must initial. The show secretary is then required to advise Dogs New Zealand. Note: sometimes it is worth gaiting the dog and then re-examining, especially if it is cold!

What about aggressive, menacing or diseased dogs?

These regulations have been extensively expanded and now include different actions for different levels of aggression. Show Regulation 19.13 is too detailed to explain here but if you are judging, stewarding or acting as a show manager then you must be familiar with these changes. The levels of exclusion are:

- Aggression towards another dog.
- Aggression towards a person.
- Attack of another dog.
- Attack of a person.
- Excluded owing to disease or any other cause.

Some other lesser-known regulations: Double-handling is prohibited unless at a Rottweiler or German Shepherd Dog specialty; The judge can request Toy and Miniature Poodles be measured and all clubs should have available the appropriate measuring equipment; The show manager can bar an exhibitor if

they are inappropriately dressed or showing in bare feet.

I hope this has been some help. Show regulations are available on the Dogs NZ website:

www.dogsnz.org.nz/dogsnz/rules-and-regulations

Happy judging. 🐾

NZDJA AGM 2021



The New Zealand Dog Judges Association's ninth Annual General Meeting was held at the Brentwood Hotel, Wellington on Sunday 20 June following the Dogs NZ Annual Conference of Delegates. President Ray Greer presided and 54 judges attended.

The president's report highlighted the curve ball thrown by COVID-19, changing our landscape quite quickly and dramatically. We responded to that challenge and Ray acknowledged the massive workload the Board faced in re-writing the regulations, holding

two sets of exams with an unprecedented number of applications for each set plus two very successful seminars hosted by the Board.

The upside of this changed landscape was a healthy financial report, with Treasurer Lesley Chalmers reporting an income nearly \$5,000 over budget mainly due to the increased income from examination fees. Expenses were down by a similar amount and most of this was attributed to the reduced number of face-to-face Board meetings and reduced AGM costs. The budget for 2021/22 includes provision for development of the Judges' online training system, further enhancement of the website and the cost of the seminars which were held in Auckland and Christchurch in April/May.

The president announced the results of the recent elections. This is the first year of elections under the new constitution removing Regional Chairs and implementing a staggered term of office. All positions were up for election. The results were:

President, Ray Greer; Vice President, Pam Douglas; Treasurer, Lesley Chalmers; Secretary, Robynne Trainor. All were elected unopposed. There were five nominations for positions in the North Island. The successful candidates were Kathleen Hardwick, Betty Parker and Bronwyn Murdoch. Linda Strongman and Kirsten Price were unsuccessful. There were only two candidates for the South Island positions and Lavina Diamanti and Charmaine Hoeben were re-elected. Both Debbie Hull and Bruce Anderson did not seek re-election. The president thanked them for their contribution and welcomed new board members Bronwyn Murdoch and Robynne Trainor. (Vice President Pam Douglas presents outgoing Secretary Debbie Hull with a gift, top right.)

The meeting re-elected Annette Buxton as our Patroness and elected Brian Harris as our Patron.

Ray asked Brian Harris, as our new Patron and as President of Dogs New Zealand, to present Robynne Trainor with her NZKC All Breeds Judge badge (photo, top left).

There were no notices of motion. However, several members presented discussion papers and presentations as follows:

Online Training Last year the Board appointed an Online Training subcommittee to source and report on options to take our training

system to an online platform. Amanda Calman and Karen McIntyre presented an update of progress to date and an overview of the proposed system and its capabilities. This is a very exciting step for NZDJA and we look forward to rolling out the first stage in the not too distant future. The intention is to firstly add the compulsory syllabus training items. Once that is up and running it will be followed by the aspiring panel training modules, new breed open book exams and then the group examinations.

Practicing Certificate

Caroline Matheson presented a paper on the value of and qualifying points for the Practicing Certificate. This subject generated a lot of discussion and there was a sense that the practicing certificate did not hold the perceived value that had been hoped for when first introduced. The members also questioned whether the available points were too limited and didn't encourage members to apply for the practicing certificate endorsement. It was also noted that the PC notation was only on the NZDJA website and not the Dogs NZ website. In response Lavina Diamanti advised members that there were discussions with Dogs NZ about having one list only and the format of that list. This is on the agenda for the coming year.

Sponsor's Address Purina Pro Plan's Miranda Stevens addressed the meeting and re-iterated their support for our organisation and we took the opportunity to thank them for their generous sponsorship of our judges practical exams.

COVID-19 Regulations Ray Greer opened discussion around COVID-19 regulations. The general consensus was that although the regulation changes allowed a 'fast tracking' of judges through our training system to help pick up the shortfall of New Zealand judges available to judge the shows around the country, we needed to be very mindful that this wasn't at the expense of producing quality judges. It was always the Board's intention that 'fast tracking' was a temporary measure and was to be reviewed again in the second half of 2021. To be considered with this review will be Dogs NZ intentions regarding the show scene and the progress (or otherwise) of the effect of the pandemic. Traditionally, NZ judges are respected worldwide and it was agreed that it was a difficult challenge but maintaining that quality needed to be at the forefront of the review.

Digital Distance Learning Bronwyn Murdoch presented a discussion document around Digital Distance Learning and this follows on nicely from the Board's intention to move our examination process online. She outlined the differences between learning and education and how that would benefit show judges. A copy of her presentation is on the website on the AGM review page.

In wrapping up, Ray thanked everyone for attending and advised that following a member survey last year, the Board intends to take the AGM around the country. In 2022 it will be held in Christchurch. 🐾

