

NZDJA

Judging in China

In China dog shows are run by two different organisations. The China Kennel Union which is recognised by the FCI and the National General Kennel Club. Because of our reciprocal agreement with FCI, New Zealand judges may only officiate at CKU shows.

The China Kennel Union is based in Beijing with a staff of around 60 led by Andy Gong. An office in Shanghai runs the Southern China shows. During 2016 CKU have plans to run 400 all breeds shows.

Normal practice is for six shows to be held over a weekend, two on Friday, two on Saturday and two on Sunday. A team of six judges from all parts of the globe officiate over the weekend, two per day. A judge will judge the entire show through to Best in Show. Entries are limited to around 150 each show and the great majority of dogs are entered in all six shows. You may well wonder how it is possible to run six shows with just 150 dogs per show and bring judges from all over the world to officiate. Quite simple really... you charge NZ\$150 per entry per show. NZ\$900 per weekend. Next time you complain about a club putting their entries up by a dollar remember how cheap we are in comparison with the rest of the world. Shows in China are organised by the CKU with the help of a sponsor. The sponsor is not like the sponsors we have here in New Zealand. He or she may not even be part of the dog world. The sponsor's job is to organise the venue, accommodation, meals etc in the city the show is held and in return receives the profit the show makes over the weekend. There are some who do this for a living. Dogs are in most cases handled by professional handlers. The most common breeds at the shows are Golden Retrievers, Labradors and Border Collies. There are often breeds entered that we don't see in New Zealand such as Dogo Argentino, Dog Canario, Caucasian Shepherd Dog.

Since the beginning of 2016 the format of the shows is a cross between the FCI format and the American system of judging. Being FCI the China Kennel Union uses the 10 groups. Dogs are judged first (this may sound obvious, but until this year bitches were judged first) with the following classes, Baby Puppy, Puppy, Junior, Intermediate, Bred by Exhibitor and Open. Then the winning dog is selected, very similar to the American system. The champion dogs are then brought in, judged and placed 1 to 4. The process is repeated with the bitches. Each dog and bitch judged is graded by the judge using the FCI grading system, Excellent, Very Good, Good, Sufficient. Then the winning dog, winning bitch, champion dog and champion bitch enter the ring for Best of Breed, Best Opposite and Best of Winners. The best of breed is then critiqued by the judge.

At the completion of the judging of all the breeds in the group, Best of Group 1 to 4 is awarded.

At the completion of all the groups, all the Baby Puppies entered in the show that were graded Very Promising enter the ring for Baby Puppy in Show 1 to 4. Likewise for the Puppies. No other classes are

taken through to in show. Then Best in Show is judged with all 10 group winners entering the ring and judged 1 to 4. This is followed by lots of photos.

The days you are not judging are filled with sightseeing in one of the most interesting countries in the world and shopping which for many of our judges is a highlight of the trip.

New Zealand and Australian judges are held in very high esteem in Asia. The Asia/Pacific region of FCI is currently looking to our two countries' training systems for their judges training. It is very common for New Zealand and Australian judges officiating China to be asked to assess their trainee judges while completing their assignments. The trainees will be in the ring watching the judge assess the dogs and when the judge has made his or her decisions the trainee will talk about the exhibits with the judge. The judge will mark the trainees critique sheets at the end of the day.

In 2019 the World Dog Show is scheduled to be held in Shanghai in China. Many around the world have called for the show to be taken away from China or boycotted because in some parts of China dog is still seen as a food source.

My personal opinion is that if the show is moved from China the government controlled media would make sure the general public never even knew there was to be a major dog show in China. But if the show goes ahead China Kennel Union, who are already doing wonderful work in this area, have the great opportunity to promote animal welfare and a ban on dog meat to the whole of China.

Brian Harris



Important Dates

Annual Conference: Sun 26th June 2016

Auckland Practical Exams: Sat 16th & Sun 17th July 2016

Wellington Practical Exams: Sat 23th & Sun 24th July 2016

Christchurch Practical Exams: Sat 30th & Sun 31st July 2016