

NZDJA

NZ Dog Judges Association Inc

Judges Seminar

by Lavina Diamanti



Along with all the negatives, COVID-19 has presented us with some opportunities we otherwise wouldn't have had and one of these is a lighter event calendar. This gave us an opportunity to conduct two judges seminars, aimed primarily at getting face-to-face with our members with the impending Judges Breed Observation (JBO) scheme. Secondly, we delivered some training and support for our judges, especially those who have benefited from the regulation changes and were doing another set of exams.

The seminars were held in Christchurch in the last weekend in April and in Auckland the following weekend. The response from our members was overwhelming and some last-minute adjusting to catering and presentation was required to accommodate the attendees. It was a huge couple of weekends for our presenters but I think those who attended would agree it was all worthwhile.

The content for both seminars was the same, with one day targeting our less-experienced judges and the other aimed at even the most senior All Breeders. My focus here is to give an overview of the content, share some photos taken by Shirley Rolfe, and direct you to where you can source more information.

Judges Breed Observations The talented team of Karen McIntyre, Dr Kirsten Wylie, Pam Douglas and Lynley Drummond (Christchurch seminar) gave us a real insight into the new JBO scheme, its background and reason for being, and answered many of the questions surrounding it. This scheme is designed to collect data on breeds identified as having areas of risk related to breed type. Once collected, this data can then be analysed and recommendations made from the findings.

The team used a PowerPoint presentation that, as well as giving us a professional presentation, allowed Kirsten to provide insight into some of the health conditions she sees as a vet and what the complications of these conditions are. She was also very descriptive in detailing what we as judges can observe and record. Kirsten was very clear in emphasising that judges are not vets and are not expected to identify conditions but are only required to record exaggerations that they observe in a breed. We are not required to identify specific dogs nor do we record their exhibitor number or details.

Lynley gave us details of her involvement as a professional statistician regarding the collection of data and the review process. We also heard from judges who have been trialling the documents at recent shows and their support of the scheme. The JBO scheme launches in July at Kumeu and Tokoroa shows. Judges will have already received emails regarding JBO and further information is available on the NZDJA website. Dogs New Zealand is currently amending the contracts for judges and the stewarding sheets to accommodate the new scheme.

FCI Shows Brian Harris gave us a presentation in Christchurch on the upcoming FCI shows to be held in November in conjunction with the Canterbury Kennel Association. Ray Greer delivered the presentation on Brian's behalf in Auckland. Brian gave an overview of how the FCI groups are split, how the grading system works, the



different classes that will be available to enter, how the CACIB is awarded and the requirement for all Best of Breeds to be critiqued. He also announced the contracted judges for the show. This presentation created a lot of positive discussion and the consensus of those present was that the opportunity for grading of dogs and a critique of the Best of Breed exhibit was a very positive thing. It also identified that this show will be a very different experience for all of us and Dogs NZ is going to be regularly publishing information in *NZ Dog World* in preparation for the show.

Syllabus explained Pam Douglas and Kathleen Hardwick drilled down on the compulsory training syllabus requirements, what the boards expectations are from branches and (hopefully) clarified



in the delivery of these topics and has resolved to produce some material for the branches to use.

Critiquing Ray Greer delivered his timeless training on critiquing. This was very interactive with participants required to write critiques for Ray's virtual 'Manchurian Munchhound'. Some brave participants also shared their critiques verbally. With the FCI shows coming up and with many of the attendees sitting exams, this was very well received. A copy of Ray's notes from an earlier workshop on critiquing are on the NZDJA website under Member Resources/ Training tools and articles.

Ringcraft and Examinations The other three sessions were Passing Theory Exams: Tips and Tricks, Practical Exams: An examiners viewpoint and Ringcraft: Examining dogs and running an efficient ring. These three sessions were very well received and the feedback from participants was extremely positive.

With such an amazing response to these seminars it is quite clear that we should endeavour to make them a regular event and to take them to more regions. This is cost dependent but if these two weekends are anything to go by then it is clear that it would be money is well spent. Thank you to all those who contributed and for all the feedback we received during and after the events. We look forward to doing it all again before too long. 🐾



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Important Dates

20 June 2021 Annual General Meeting
29 June 2021 Theory exams
14-15 August 2021 South Island Practicals
28-29 August 2021 North Island Practicals