

TRAINING GUIDE EXPANDED

Aims and Objectives

To provide a guide for the training of judges and to facilitate the acquisition of the knowledge and expertise necessary to become a competent judge and be successful with examination. This guide is intended to be an amplification of, and to be read in conjunction with Appendix I of the NZDJA Regulations.

The areas of expertise are:

- Canine Anatomy
- Glossary of Terms (2020)
- Rules and Regulations
- Ringcraft
- Breed Knowledge
- Breed History, Form and Function

The emphasis in this guide is on detailing out the requirements that an trainee judge must meet. No indication of study time necessary to meet these requirements has been given as individual requirements and opportunities for study vary.

Throughout this document the emphasis is on detailing what skills and knowledge are necessary to become a competent judge with suggestions and recommendations on how these attributes may be acquired.

1. Canine Anatomy

(a) Training Requirement

“A candidate will be required to understand how the dog is constructed.”

(b) Interpretation

The aim of this requirement is to ensure that candidates understand the construction of the skeleton, names of the points of the dog, and appreciate the basis of the relationship between the structure of the dog and the purpose for which it was bred.

(c) Method of Acquisition

- Study, (with self-testing) of diagrams, charts, videos and other reference material.
- Attendance at branch or discussion group meetings and completing mandatory training.
- Online training.
- Attending veterinary lectures on construction of the dog and functions of skeleton, muscles etc.
- Completing written assignments, e.g. matching names to numbered parts of diagrams.
- Forming study groups or informal discussion groups for sharing ideas and resources, pair and group testing, etc.

(d) Assessment

An indication of adequate study can be made by group or self-assessment of old exam papers.

(e) References

(f) Textbook

- Canine Terminology - Harry Spira

(g) Additional Material

- Canine Veterinary Aid - Form Laboratories
- Dog Steps - Rachel Page-Elliot
- K-9 Structure & Terminology – Edward M Gilbert, Jr & Thelma R Brown

2. Glossary of Terms (2020 version)

- a) Training Requirement
A candidate will be expected to answer exam questions on terms as defined.
- b) Interpretation
Knowledge of the Glossary of Terms is required to ensure clear communication in that the same terms mean the same to everyone.
- c) Method of Acquisition
 - Study, (with self-testing) of diagrams, charts, videos and other reference material.
 - Attendance at branch or discussion group meetings and completing mandatory training.
 - Online training.
 - Attending lectures or discussion groups where terms used in breed standards are referred to in context and/or described.
 - Completing written assignments, e.g. matching names to numbered parts of diagrams..
 - Forming study groups or informal discussion groups for sharing ideas and resources, pair and group testing, etc.
- d) Assessment
An indication of adequate study can be made by group or self assessment of old exam papers.
- e) References
Text Book: New Zealand Kennel Club Glossary of Terms (2020)
Additional material: Canine Terminology - Harry Spira

3. Rules and Regulations

- a. Training Requirement
Candidates will be expected to answer questions taken from the source material quoted.
- b. Interpretation
Our sport is governed by a set of Rules and Regulations which must be adhered to by all parties involved. Knowledge of these Rules and Regulations is important to ensure a common basis on which the sport is conducted. These Rules and Regulations provide protection for judges, club officials and exhibitors.
- c. Method of Acquisition
 - Study (with self-testing) of reference material.
 - Attending lectures or discussion groups where Rules and Regulations are explained.
 - Attendance at branch or discussion group meetings and completing mandatory training.
 - Online training.
 - Completing written assignments, e.g. questions on Rules and Regulations.
 - Forming study groups or informal discussion groups for sharing ideas and resources, pair and group testing, etc.
- d. Assessment
An indication of adequate study can be made by:
 - Group or self assessment of old exam papers.
 - References
 - New Zealand Kennel Club (Dogs NZ) Rules
 - New Zealand Kennel Club (Dogs NZ) Show Regulations
 - NZ Dog Judges Assn Regulations
 - NZ Dog Judges Assn Constitution
 - Amendments as published in Dog World

4. Ringcraft

a) Training Requirement

Candidates will be expected to demonstrate that they are in control of the ring and be able to run it efficiently. They will be observed in their placement of the ring equipment and their method of examining the dog and its movement. A candidate will be expected to demonstrate efficient communication with show officials and exhibitors.

b) Interpretation

This category incorporates time spent in both judging and stewarding. A lot of information will be gained by just watching and observing other judges at work. Time spent stewarding will enable familiarisation with ring procedures and build confidence when judging.

This is not a subject that can be taught as much as one which will be gained with experience. Ribbon Parades and Open Shows are to be encouraged as these provide invaluable experience for the judge just starting out.

The following topics are important aspects of ringcraft and form the basis upon which candidates will be assessed.

i) Suitability for prevailing conditions and breeds judged.

ii) Ring Craft

- (Setting Up Ring)
Places place markers, entrances and exits with regard to shape of ring, position of sun, and other physical conditions.
- (Communication with Steward)
Informs Steward of what he/she requires exhibits to do when they enter the ring and where the dogs are to be positioned for judging.
- (Position of table and exhibits)
Positions table and dogs in positions which take account of the size of the entry, is fair to all, and allows for movement to places and exits.
- (Clear Directions)
Gives directions and placings which are clear to both exhibitors and Stewards. (Efficiency of judge's movement)
Assesses all exhibits fairly whilst eliminating all unnecessary judge's movement.
- (Speed at judging)
Assess whether or not excessive time is taken bearing in mind conditions, breed or group. Candidates should judge dogs at the rate of approximately 2 minutes per dog.

iii) Manner and Attitude

- (Appropriate)
Displays an appropriate manner and attitude for all eventualities, always maintaining decorum and courtesy.
- (Friendly, helpful, considerate, confident)
Displays courtesy, respect, friendliness, helpfulness and consideration when speaking to Stewards, Exhibitors and dogs.
Displays a relaxed yet confident manner when approaching dogs and in making decisions.

iv) Physical examination

- (Approach to Exhibits)
Approaches each dog in a considerate and suitable manner for the breed concerned.
- (Appropriate Tabling)
Tables correct breeds.
- (Knowledgeable Examination)
Examines each exhibit showing a knowledge of the conformation and particular characteristics and requirements of each.
- (Efficient Examination)
Examines each exhibit thoroughly yet efficiently.

- (Confident Handling)
Examines each exhibit in a positive and confident manner.
 - (Consistent Examination)
Examines each exhibit in a similar manner.
 - (Consistent Movement)
Moves dogs in a similar manner, over similar terrain, to give each exhibit an equal opportunity to gait correctly.
- v) Breed Knowledge and Observation Skills
- (Knowledge of Breed Standards)
Shows knowledge of requirements for each breed.
 - (Application of Knowledge)
Recognises typical characteristics of each breed.
 - (History, Form & Function)
Demonstrates an understanding of the history and development of the breed(s) and how this influences the form and function.
 - (Assessment of Conformation)
Recognises conformity with, and departures from the ideal as required by the Standard for each exhibit.
 - (Assessment of Movement)
Recognises sound and unsound movement and shows an understanding of causes of unsound movement.
 - (Use of Terminology)
Uses correct canine terminology when describing exhibits.
 - (Justification of Placings)
Explains why placings have been made, showing an understanding of the requirements of each breed and displaying good observation skills when comparing exhibits.
 - (Verbal Critique)
Is able to give a brief and accurate description of selected dogs.
- c) Method of Acquisition
- Watch judges at Shows and Ribbon Parades and observe their manner, the way they use the ring and if they appear to be authoritative.
 - Attendance at branch or discussion group meetings and completing mandatory training.
 - Attend training Parades held for the purpose of assessing candidates ability. Objective criticism should be offered by those watching. Assessing another judge's performance is just as valuable as being assessed. It is important that all criticism should be constructive and discreetly offered.
 - Methods of exactly how a dog is to be judged should be discussed. Be uniform and consistent in the method of handling and procedure in order to be fair to every exhibit.
 - Make use of videos and films of shows or those made specially for training in ringcraft and judging procedures. Study handouts of relevant material distributed at branch training meetings.
 - Read and review the list of recommended reading.
- d) Assessment
- Judging at Training Ribbon Parades and being assessed by experienced judges.
 - Attending mock practical examinations.
 - Role playing exercises with use of whiteboard or models.
- e) References -
The following list is by no means an exhaustive one and must be updated regularly:
- Dogs in Action - R H Smythe
 - Judging Dogs - R H Smythe (636-70811 SMY)
 - Showing and Judging Dogs - Hilary Harmer
 - Dogs, How To Train and Show Them - Hilary Harmer (636-7083)

- Take Them Around Again Please - T Horner (636-70811 HOR)
- Judging and Showing Dogs - Capt. Eric Portman-Graham
- All About Showing Dogs - David Cavill
- The Dog Judges Handbook - Sari Brewster Tietjen (636-7081)
- The Art and Science of Judging Dogs - Brown (B & E Publishers)
- The Nicholas Guide To Dog Judging - Anna Katherine Nicholas (Howell Book House)
- Popular Dog Show Maxims - McCandlish (Popular Dogs Publishing Co.)
- Dogs - Breeding and Showing - Catherine Sutton (636-70824)
- Film - In The Ring With Mr Wrong (Check National Film Library)

5. Breed Knowledge

a) Trainee Requirements

"Candidates will be required to confidently answer detailed questions for the Group to which they aspire on Dogs NZ approved Breed Standards in the form of:

- Written multiple choice questions
- The application of the Standards to practical judging where applicable."

b) Interpretation

Fundamentally breed knowledge is the most important aspect of judging dogs, which is the integration of breed knowledge, history, form and function, canine anatomy, terminology, ringcraft and the prevailing Rules and Regulations appropriate to the event.

c) Method of Acquisition of Knowledge

- Stewarding** - Stewarding is an ideal opportunity to study dogs at close quarters. Make yourself available for stewarding for the group to which you are aspiring. Discuss placings with the judge if and when a discreet opportunity arises.
- Attending workshops, seminars, lectures, discussion groups, etc.** Attend as many of these as possible, even if you are not sitting examinations for the breed or group covered as there is always something to learn whether from the presenters or others present. Remember the presenters have given their time for your benefit. If you are unable to attend an important lecture in your area ask the Branch Secretary or someone who is attending to collect any handouts or other material for you.
- Attending kennel visits** - Take advantage of any organised kennel visits. Most breeders are willing to help, and group visits minimise the inconvenience to breeders and in addition provide the benefits of group discussion. Where these have been arranged, do try to attend and if unable to, inform the organisers in good time.
- Preparing articles or analyses** - Tutors may require candidates to prepare short articles on, or an analysis of, particular aspects of a breed or breeds, e.g. the major differences between a Lhasa Apso and a Shih Tzu. Not only are these a very useful way of acquiring breed knowledge, but if copies are made and exchanged they can be of benefit to others.
- Videos based training** - Videos of breeds and shows are available from a number of sources including NZDJA, local clubs local breeders or exhibitors and overseas sources. If you can, watch the video with others. Run through it once, discuss it and then run through it again, stopping it or slowing it when points discussed are shown. Make brief notes on what you have learned, to assist revision.

- vi) Correspondence tasks - Tutors may require you to complete a corresponding task, e.g. to read material and answer questions. These tasks may already have been used in your area several times. The benefit lies in completing the task yourself rather than getting the correct answers, so avoid the temptation to borrow someone else's answers from an earlier assignment.
- vii) Guided observation - This is intended as an appreciation of good ringcraft and technique. It is also an opportunity to apply knowledge gained from other sources. When on your own, try and identify if the judge is looking for a specific aspect, for example a breed characteristic. As an exercise, go over the dogs in your mind, place them by applying the Breed Standard, and mentally justify your decisions in words as if you were discussing your placings. In addition, if in a group, or with a tutor share your ideas and questions with the others but be discreet. Criticisms of individual dogs, exhibitors or judges should not be included. Discussions can be overheard and may be misinterpreted.
- viii) Mock judging - Branches will organise mock practical examinations from time to time under the guidance of experienced judges. These are a most valuable opportunity to apply the knowledge you have learned, to develop your skills of ringcraft, and to build up your confidence in your ability to handle both the judging situation and the questioning which will follow your placing of the dogs. You will be asked to provide either verbal or written critiques, depending on the time, numbers, etc. Both are excellent at developing the skills you will be assessed on in a real examination.

6. Breed History, Form and Function

d) Trainee Requirements

"Candidates will be required to confidently answer detailed questions for the Group to which they aspire on Dogs NZ approved Breeds detailing the history and development and how this affects the form and function of the breeds:

- i. The application of the Standards to practical judging where applicable."

e) Interpretation

Fundamentally history, form and function is second only to breed knowledge to acquiring a full understanding of each breed. Each breed was developed for purpose and that purpose has a strong influence in all aspects of breed type. A good understanding of why a breed was developed in the manner it was and therefore why it is constructed the way it is, will enhance a judges understanding of breed type and assessment of the breed in the ring.

f) Method of Acquisition of Knowledge

- i) Self development and research.
- ii) Attending kennel visits - Take the opportunity to drill down on the breeds' construction and breed specific points and how that influences the form and function.
- iii) Attendance at branch or discussion group meetings and completing mandatory training.
- iv) Preparing articles or analyses - Tutors may require candidates to prepare short articles on, or an analysis of, particular aspects of a breed or breeds, e.g. the major differences between a Lhasa Apso and a Shih Tzu. Not only are these a very useful way of

- acquiring breed knowledge, but if copies are made and exchanged they can be of benefit to others.
- v) Videos based training - Videos of breeds and shows are available from a number of sources including NZDJA, local clubs local breeders or exhibitors and overseas sources. If you can, watch the video with others. Run through it once, discuss it and then run through it again, stopping it or slowing it when points discussed are shown. Make brief notes on what you have learned, to assist revision.
 - vi) Correspondence tasks - Tutors may require you to complete a corresponding task, e.g. to read material and answer questions. These tasks may already have been used in your area several times. The benefit lies in completing the task yourself rather than getting the correct answers, so avoid the temptation to borrow someone else's answers from an earlier assignment.
 - vii) Acting as a tutor, lecturer, host for kennel visit, etc. Although you are a candidate for a particular group you probably have considerable knowledge of some breed or other group and you may be asked to share this with the candidates aspiring to these groups. Not only does this give you the opportunity to repay some of the time given to your training by others, but it frequently helps you discover what you need to look for when you are on the receiving end, and vice versa.

g) References

- (i) Sources of Material
 - Dogs NZ Library
 - NZDJA Website
 - Local and specialist breed clubs
 - Bookshops/pet shops/junk and second hand shops
 - National Library request service
 - Breeders
 - Dog publications including:
 - New Zealand Kennel Gazette Breed Supplements
 - Dog World and other papers
 - Year Books obtainable from breed clubs

Judging is a life-long journey of learning, even the most experienced judges will declare that they are still learning. The information provided in this training guide is not absolute and you will find other sources and information on your judging journey. Good luck.