

JUDGES NEWSLETTER

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HIGHLIGHTS

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Wayne Cavanaugh

Those of you who have attended the new UKC Judging Seminar in the past three years know how committed I am to the constant pursuit of education and the health and function of purebred dogs. The content of the seminar is always changing based on your feedback, new and relevant research, and our concerns as a registry. While every part of the seminar addresses the issues of health and function, the section entitled *The Future of Purebred Dogs* shows our passion for these issues and goes far beyond the scope of a typical judging seminar.

This section is primarily a result of my concern that exaggerations in canine conformation have severely compromised many breeds for the sake of style and fashion. I understand that by saying so, I may offend some who disagree but I am more than happy to take the heat. I just want to do what I feel is right for the dogs. These structural exaggerations did not happen overnight. They occurred in small and subtle increments over time. Seminars, registries, and judges cannot fix these things alone. It will take a concerted effort of constant inquiry, introspection, and courage.

UKC has taken steps to address health and function through seminars, UKC performance and hunting events, our Total Dog philosophy, and our new breed standard program. Some of our breed standards have been recently revised to stress the importance of health and function while preserving each breed's essence and history. More revised standards are forthcoming; each and every breed will be reviewed. All of the standards listed on our website as being "revised" since 2012 already include the following preamble:

The goals and purposes of this breed standard include: to furnish guidelines for breeders who wish to maintain the quality of their breed and to improve it; to advance this breed to a state of similarity throughout the world; and to act as a guide for judges. Breeders and judges have the responsibility to avoid any conditions or exaggerations that are detrimental to the health, welfare, essence and soundness of this breed, and must take the responsibility

to see that these are not perpetuated.

Any departure from the following should be considered a fault, and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

Some preambles have slight variations specific to the breed but are otherwise identical. We feel so strongly about the message in this preamble that we have decided to add it to every UKC breed standard, even those that have not yet been officially listed as "revised." By April 1, 2013, all standards on the UKC website will include the preamble, but there is no reason to wait until April to make this a fundamental part of your thought process while judging.

UKC currently offers seven performance events, all of which are used to assess UKC Total Dog qualifiers: agility, obedience, rally obedience, lure coursing, weight pull, terrier racing, and dock jumping. UKC also licenses hunting events for coonhounds, Beagles, cur and feists, pointing breeds, and retrievers. The bottom line is that there is an event, in addition to conformation, in which every breed can compete. When you are judging UKC conformation classes, ask yourself if the dogs are capable, physically and mentally, of competing in any of these events. If you are not familiar with the UKC performance and hunting events, take the time to at least learn the basics so you can understand the structure and temperament it takes for dogs to compete.

UKC fully supports health testing for all breeding stock. We also, however, believe that our performance events and hunting events are practical and public tests and serve as a tribute to the health and function of our breeds. Remember, one of the many things that sets UKC apart is our focus on the Total Dog. I urge you to read the UKC breed standards from this perspective. Revisit the history and original purpose of the breed. Watch dogs in action.

We all know that breed standards are only one tool in our judging tool box. We need to also speak with breeders, read and understand breed histories, and look at old paintings and photos to see how breeds have changed over time. With that said, breed standards are a crucial

tool, an essential blueprint you must read, re-read, and regularly reference.

The late Henry Stoecker was one of the most respected dog show judges in canine history. He was born in Germany in 1903; moved to America in 1922, and died in New Jersey in 1998. His father bred and showed famous Airedales, Fox Terriers, and Boxers in Germany. Henry's judging credentials are listed with the New York Historical Society and he is one of only three dog show judges enshrined in the New York Sports Hall of Fame. His depth of knowledge and experience is legendary. But even after 50 years of judging, every night before a judging assignment he re-read every standard for the breeds he was to judge the following day. He had most of them memorized, highlighted and tattered, but he re-read them anyway. He said the dogs, breeders, and exhibitors deserved the time it took him to re-read the standards. He was absolutely correct.

Do you read your breed standards enough? Do you ask other judges and breeders about their interpretations of the standards every chance you get? Do you constantly strive to learn more about every breed?

On several occasions at UKC, we have seen dogs with glaring disqualifying faults earn championships. Because it takes more than one judge to crown a dog as a UKC champion, we know that more than one judge failed to read the standard for a breed they judged.

We have a unique situation at UKC. You may judge many breeds in a day, some of which are fairly rare. You cannot be expected to be a world-class expert in every breed you judge - but you are expected to read and know the breed standards. It may not always be possible to do what Mr. Stoecker did because our structure doesn't always allow you to know which breeds you are judging ahead to time.

There is, however, a simple solution - bring your standards in the ring and set them on your judge's table. Before each breed walks in the ring, check the standard. Perhaps you have taken the time to have previously highlighted the breed's key points. Pay particular attention to the disqualifications and eliminating faults. Even if you are in the middle of judging a class, stop, walk over to your

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judge's table and check something you are not sure of. As an exhibitor, wouldn't you rather your judge took the time to check than be too proud to try?

Judging is a constant learning process. When judging a breed you are not familiar with, don't be afraid to ask the exhibitor if they have time after the judging to discuss their breed. One of my favorite UKC moments occurred when one of our most experienced and knowledgeable judges invited the entire entry, a relatively large entry of a seldom seen breed back in the ring after he finished his assignment. They had a wonderful two-way open discussion about the breed and everyone left the ring knowing more than when they started. Why not? UKC shows should be a constant learning opportunity for everyone at the show. It is allowed by our rules and encouraged by our culture.

It is impossible to impart our entire message for UKC judges in one article. If you have not been to our seminar, I urge you to do so, even if you have already completed your seminar requirement - we can all continue to learn from each other. I want to remind you that there is no fee to attend subsequent seminars after you have met the requirement. Several of you have done so. How encouraging to see the interest and have the opportunity to share ideas! Don't just attend because you have to, come because you want to.

Never stop learning. Please read, re-read, and understand your breed standards. Please make sure you are using the UKC breed standard. And please keep the essence, history, and overall health and function in mind for our beloved and beautiful dogs. The future of purebred dogs depends on it.

DOG EVENT NEWS

UKC Dogs Events Department
conformation@ukcdogs.com or
performance@ukcdogs.com.

Welcome to the first quarter Judges Newsletter for 2013! We hope the beginning of your year has gotten off on the right foot and that you are all looking forward to spring! As we begin the show season we want to make sure that everyone is polished up on some of the more intricate details of the UKC rules that apply to UKC judges for both conformation and performance. In this issue, let's review the UKC policy on exhibiting and judging as they apply today.

Before we discuss the current rules, we would like to mention that all of the judging conflict rules are under review. It is becoming clear that as UKC grows and adds events, some of the conflict rules do not allow for some of the differences in the way the particular events are run and the way dogs are judged. We would like to come up with judging policies regarding conflicts with exhibiting and judging to be practical and appropriate for all judges. The back-up judging rules will also be examined for each performance event and then applied to each sport individually. Any changes will be announced well beforehand and would not become effective until January of 2014 at the earliest.

Under the current UKC rules, conformation judges may not exhibit dogs in any event (performance or conformation) on the same day they are scheduled to officiate. If conformation judges would like to exhibit their own dogs in *conformation* they may do so the day *after* their assignment. No conformation judge may exhibit any dog in conformation at an event in which they are scheduled to officiate *before* their judging assignment; however, conformation judges may exhibit his/her dog(s) in any *performance* event the day before or the day after their assignment.

Performance judges may not exhibit dogs in any event on the same day they are judging, with the exception of the back-up judge provision. A performance judge may, however, exhibit his/her dog(s) in any event the day before or the day after their judging assignment.

Both conformation and performance judges who want to enter their dog on the same day in any event other than the one they are assigned to judge may do so provided that they are not the person handling the dog. They must have some-

one else handle the dog if the dog is to compete on the same day.

Performance Back-Up Judges

Back-up judges for Performance Events can require tricky planning, and there seems to be quite a bit of confusion about it. To begin the clarification process, it will be explained here to provide the original intention that UKC had when developing this rule for performance judges.

As it stands, the back-up judge is hired strictly for the purpose of judging the officiating judge's dog(s). The back-up judge should not judge anyone else's dog for any reason. This really does apply to all performance events. A few venues have taken it in a completely different direction and have hired back-up judges to "split up" the judging assignment between the judges. **This is not allowed!** However, we do realize that the wording of the rules as they are now is ambiguous. As mentioned earlier, these rules and their wording are being fully examined and are up for revision.

What is New?

The year 2013 ushered in a new title in UKC Obedience, the U-UDX! Dogs can now earn qualifying scores from the Open B and Utility B classes to earn this title. For any questions on the details of this particular title, please contact the Dog Events Department. We will be happy to speak with you. You can also find the complete set of rule changes for 2013 in UKC Obedience by going to the UKC website and downloading the current copy of the obedience rules.

As of June 1, 2013, the Kromfohrlander will move from the Terrier Group to the Companion Dog Group to better align it with the breed's history and official UKC standard.

March 1, 2013 saw the closing date to end the Open Comment Period for obedience, rally obedience and agility. Anyone who participates in these sports was asked to send in their comments and suggestions on these programs and offer their input for future rule changes. We received numerous suggestions from all over the country. We are excited to get them organized and back out to the public for review. There were many good suggestions that were well thought out and attainable in the near future. We hope this process will help us stay in touch with our exhibitors and their needs as we move into the future



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for all of the performance events.

The 20th Annual PREMIER premium list has been released. It can be downloaded from the UKC website. The opening date for entries is April 1, 2013. Entries close May 8! Get your entries in! Hope to see you there!

FROM A JUDGE'S POINT OF VIEW

THE CASE FOR WEAWE POLES

Jeff Porter, UKC Agility Judge

I've competed in several venues of canine agility for over nine years and have always loved UKC agility more than any other. One of the things that sets UKC agility apart from the rest is the unique equipment. Nobody else has a swing plank, sway bridge or pause box. Where else will you see a Border Collie zip through the course only to stop to smell the flower box? While having obstacles that are different from the rest of the agility world can be a drawback and scare some competitors off, I find it more fun and challenging. That being said, I do think some changes would be



"Check out the offset between the three-pole and the six-pole base. That's close to an inch. That was caused by the previous dog taking the weave poles very aggressively. While the offset wasn't an issue for this particular dog, it could be for other dogs."

Photo credit, HereForDogs.com

very helpful to our sport.

Getting rid of the crawl tunnel was a step in the right direction. Making a 12-pole set of weave poles an option for the judges instead of nine would be another. I know most people think this sounds trivial because it's only a difference of three poles. As judges, we have a lot of

influence on how fast and efficient the trial moves along. With that in mind, I can tell you that from a course building perspective, it's far from trivial.

The issue, for those of you who don't build courses very often, is that the 12-pole set is bi-directional. In other words, the cross members on the base are set correctly regardless of the direction the dog is taking the poles. The nine-pole set is not and must be spun around in order for the cross members to be out of the dogs' path in the opposite direction. This creates an issue for the course builders. It's common practice for the judge to "nest" the AG-II and AG-III courses. This makes them easy to build and the trial moves along quickly. It's also common practice to reverse the entire course, or many elements of it, between trials. Again, this makes the course building easier and the trial moves along. With more trials moving to indoor facilities, reversing the weave poles between trials is more than just inconvenient and time consuming. We use a lot of double back sticky tape to secure the poles on an indoor surface, versus using landscaping spikes outdoors. The tape becomes less effective after the poles are moved, and thus they become less securely set. This has caused problems for many dogs. Another issue is the availability of a nine-pole set. Most clubs have several six-pole bases and a lot of two-pole bases for two-by-two training. Frequently, they only have one three-pole base to use in the ring and that leaves only a six-pole set in the warm up ring. In some cases, the three-pole base may not be spaced exactly like the six-pole set they are matching it to in the ring.

For these reasons, I think it would make a great deal of sense for UKC to make the use of a 12-pole set of weaves an option for the judges when designing courses.

If you are an approved judge and would like to submit an article for consideration about judging a specific event, please submit the article to conformation@ukcdogs.com or performance@ukcdogs.com with the subject line 'From a Judge's Point of View submission'. Submitting an article will not guarantee publication.

Questions or comments? Email the Dog Events Department at: conformation@ukcdogs.com or performance@ukcdogs.com.

WELCOME!

TO OUR NEWLY-APPROVED AND NEWLY-APPLIED UKC JUDGES.

Prospective judges applying to UKC for their judge's license will now be published in this section of the newsletter. UKC feels that it is important for all judges to be aware of who has applied to become a UKC judge. Publishing the applicants provides a venue for approved judges to be aware of who is coming into the sport and can foster mentorship opportunities for prospective judges. Approved judges who have met all judging requirements will be published in this section as well. For complete contact information, please go to: <http://www.ukcdogs.com/Web.nsf/WebPages/DogEvents/Judges>.

NEWLY APPROVED (FROM DECEMBER 6, 2012 THROUGH MARCH 22, 2013)

- 7074 William "Clay" Fonvielle, Houston TX, WP
- 7087 Kathryn McKewen, New Port Richey FL, TR
- 7088 Emily R. Carabello, Richlands NC, CN
- 7089 Camille Gagnon, Newport NH, CN
- 7090 Linn Klingel Brown, Inver Grove Hts MN, CN
- 7091 Rebekah Anthony, Douglas WY, CN
- 7092 Paul Kouski, Port Byron IL, CN
- 7093 Karen N Rice, Lucasville OH, CN & JS
- 7094 Beryl Billingsley, Abilene KS, AG
- 7095 Christine Cameron, LaPine OR, CN
- 7096 Marie Amelia Taborda, Portugal, CN
- 7097 Cynthia D Sweet, Redford MI, RO
- 7098 Kari L. Jepson, Lebanon KS, CN
- 7099 Claire L. Mancha, Portland OR, CN
- 7100 Kasey A. Parks, Honea Path SC, CN
- 7101 Michael Pastrana, Orlando FL, DJ

APPROVED FOR ADDITIONAL LICENSES:

- Carolyn R. Kraskey, AE
- Vickie Johnson, TFT
- Cheryl Peterson, TFT
- Sharon Elkins, OB
- Glenda Bruneau, APBT
- Linda Marie Dannemiller, TFT & APBT
- Dorothy Edge, TFT
- Dovie Ryan, OB
- Janet L Fink, APBT
- Alleyne Dickens, TFT
- Ruth K Teeter, APBT

STATUS CHANGE

- William Chrzanowski, Senior AE and APBT Judge
- Annette Murphy-Wales, Senior RO Judge
- Harriet Deary, Senior OB Judge
- Tracey A Kallas, Senior APBT Judge
- Karyn Myers, Senior APBT Judge

NEW APPRENTICES

- Vickie Johnson, APBT
- Judith E Lehman, AE
- Bruce Lehman, AE
- Ralph Ambrosio, AE
- Linda Marie Dannemiller, APBT
- Melissa K Ness, WP

NEW APPLICANTS

- Rebekah Anthony, Douglas WY, CNF
- Polly Dake-Jones, Beaver Dam WI, RO
- Claire L Mancha, Portland OR, CNF
- Patti L McKnight, Rockford IL, RO
- Melissa K Ness, Ramona CA, WP
- Guy Fisher, Emmett MI, CNF
- Valerie Ann Piltz, Bellvue WA, TR
- Jerry Berkowitz, Gulph Mills PA, CNF
- Christine Cameron, La Pine OR, CNF
- Philip Beauvais, Cypress TX, WP
- Katie Stoyles, New Market Ont., LC
- Tracie Karsjens, Rogers MN, CNF
- C. Holly Lowery-Richmond, Knoxville TN, CNF
- Marguerite Plank, Gettysburg PA, RO
- Mary C Murphy, Egan MN, CNF

Introducing the New Total Dog Hunting Title Buy-In at PREMIER!

We are excited to announce that for the 2013 PREMIER, any dog that has earned a UKC recognized hunting title from any UKC recognized hunting organization on or before April 1, 2013 can enter PREMIER as a Total Dog!

How does this work?

Easy! If your dog has earned any UKC hunting title on or before April 1, 2013, and you would like to enter your dog in Conformation at PREMIER, your dog is now eligible to compete and qualify for Total Dog.

Does It Cost Extra?

No! The only thing it will cost is the regular entry fee to enter the dog in its correct conformation class on Saturday, June 15, 2013.

What do I do to enter?

PREMIER entries open April 1. Once entries are open, you can enter online on the UKC website, **or** download a copy of the Premium List to get a copy of the Premier entry form, and then mail or fax it to UKC with payment, or hand deliver your entry to the UKC office. All entries must be received by the PREMIER closing date of May 8, 2013.

What am I supposed to enter to be eligible to compete for Total Dog?

If your dog has earned a hunting title then you will need to enter your dog in conformation on Saturday, June 15. If your dog goes on

to earn a win with competition, your dog will be designated as earning a Total Dog Award and will be eligible to compete in the Total Dog Competition at the UKC PREMIER event on Saturday, June 15, 2013.

How Do I Indicate That My Dog Has Earned a Hunting Title?

On the PREMIER entry form, there is a box that you **must** check to indicate that your dog is going to use its hunting title to "buy in" to Total Dog. All dogs must be pre-entered as Total Dogs in order to be eligible to qualify. The check box titled "Total Dog - Hunting Buy In" will be on the online entry form and on the paper entry form.

Please Check This Box. Your dog will not be eligible to compete for Total Dog if the dog is not pre-entered as a Total Dog.

Below you will see an excerpt from the rules for the Total Dog and Hunting Title Buy-In at the 2013 UKC PREMIER event. For the complete rules, please see the 2013 PREMIER Premium list. If you have any further questions, or need additional clarifications, please contact the Dog Events Department at (269) 343-9020 or email conformation@ukcdogs.com.

Thank you! Good Luck! We hope to see you there!

TOTAL DOG AWARD

Held over two days: performance qualifier held on Friday; and conformation qualifier held on Saturday. To be eligible for a "Total Dog" award, a dog must meet the following criteria:

1. On Saturday, June 15, 2013, compete in conformation with competition and win one of the following classes: Best Male/Female of Variety, Best Male/Female, Best of Winners, Champion, Grand Champion, Best of Breed, Group 1 through 4 (Note: Group 4 win only counts if there are five or more breeds in the Group class.), Best In Show, or Reserve Best In Show from the Regular conformation classes. With special permission from the United Kennel Club, the following addition to the existing Total Dog Rules regarding conformation competition requirements for the Champion and Grand Champion classes shall apply solely on Saturday, June 15, 2013.

***** NEW***** Total Dog Hunting Title Buy-In!

With special permission from the United Kennel Club, dogs that have earned a hunting title in any hunting event recognized by UKC on or before April 1, 2013 can enter PREMIER as eligible for Total Dog. All dogs must be designated as entering Total Dog upon submission of entry into the Conformation class in which the dog is eligible for on Saturday June 15, 2013.

UPCOMING UKC SEMINARS

June

10 & 11: UKC Judges Education Seminar. Kalamazoo, Michigan, before PREMIER.

For applications and details, go to ukcdogs.com.

August

Dates TBA: UKC Judges Education Seminar. Las Vegas, Nevada. For applications and details, go to ukcdogs.com.

October

24 & 25: UKC Judges Education Seminar. Gray Summit, Missouri, in conjunction with Gateway Nationals.

For applications and details, go to ukcdogs.com.



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**Please use this fax number for transmitting information to the Dog Events Department only. All other transmissions should be sent to the main UKC fax number.*