

UKC JUDGES NEWSLETTER

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Year-End 2018

UKC ONLINE JUDGES TESTS

CONFORMATION JUDGES OPEN TESTING PERIOD

The annual open testing period for conformation judges will be July 1, 2019 through August 31, 2019. All judges needing to retake the Conformation Judges Test **MUST** request this test during the open testing period, regardless of the date of your last test.

Who must take the conformation judges test? The only conformation judges who are required to take the conformation judges test are those who did not pass the conformation test in 2018, new applicants, and those judges who need to renew their judging license from 2017. If you have taken and passed the conformation test, you **DO NOT** need to request to take the test again.

For Judges who did not pass the test in order to receive instructions and your password for the online test, you must email judges@ukcdogs.com between July 1st and August 31, 2019 and provide the following information: Name. Current mailing address, including City/State/Zip-Postal code. Current telephone number (and cell phone if available). Current email address - testing information will be sent to the email address provided.

The Conformation test will only be available online and it will **NOT** be mailed or made available in hard copy.

NOSEWORK HIDE OFFICIALS

Beginning in 2020, UKC Nosework has eliminated the Hide Official position. Active Hide officials who wish to maintain a UKC Nosework Official's license may request approval as a Certifying Official. To be approved, the Hide Official must pass the Nosework Certifying Official test with a minimum score of 85%.

To apply for the Certifying Officials license and to receive instructions for the online test, please send a request to judges@ukcdogs.com and include an updated resume along with the following: Name. Current mailing address, including City/State/Zip-Postal code. Current telephone number (and cell phone if available). Current email address - testing information will be sent to the email address provided.

The UKC nosework test will only be available online and it will **NOT** be mailed or made available in hard copy.

RULE CHANGES

Effective January 1, 2019, the following summary of UKC Rule changes were originally posted on the UKC Website on April 5, 2018 and are being republished in this Judges Newsletter. Please review the updated rules to familiarize yourself with the changes.

Summary of the Major Changes to the Conformation rules (effective January 1, 2019): Please refer to the 2019 Official UKC Confor-

mation Rulebook for the complete requirements.

- The Conformation points system has been restructured
- Revised requirements for earning a Grand Champion title.
- New Grand Champion titles.
- Expanded Top Ten ranking system;
- Revisions to the general Conformation rules;

The entire book has been restructured to read in a Chapter and Section format. The wording has been completely revised. In some cases, sections have been added for clarity of interpretation.

All rule changes or new rules are denoted in bold and italic text in each of the updated rulebooks. Other sections may be worded differently from the old book, but if the text is not bold and italic, it is not a new change.

Summary of the Major Changes to the Rules for All-Breed Events (Effective January 1, 2019):

Previously titled "Official UKC Rules for Dog Events" this book is now titled "Official Rules for All-Breed Events. The UKC Misconduct & Discipline Guidelines are still included in the 2019 version. For all changes, please review the Official Rules for All-Breed Events.

- Judges and clubs will be able to determine an excusal for dog-on-dog incidences instead of following the Disqualified for Attacking procedure.
- Club officials will be able to

file a DQ for Attack Form for dog attacks that occur outside of the ring without holding a misconduct hearing.

- The clarification that dogs must have four limbs to compete in conformation and junior showmanship.
- Prohibition of exhibitors using recording devices while exhibiting a dog.
- Puppies are no longer required to be permanently registered or have a TL number to enter the non-licensed Puppy class.

2019 Disqualifications for Attacking procedures: Among the 2019 rule changes are the procedures for how judges and clubs can handle a dog that attacks another dog.

The most significant change for UKC judges is that you can now excuse dogs involved in a dog on dog incident rather than disqualifying a dog or all dogs, as is required currently. This new procedure simply allows a judge another option.

If an incident between two dogs occurs inside the ring or competition area and Dog A initiated the attack and injures Dog B, then Dog A is required to be disqualified. If there is no injury, then the Judge will determine if Dog A is to be disqualified or excused. Dog B may also be disqualified or excused at the discretion of the judge.

If a judge determines an excusal is warranted in lieu of a disqualification, then one or both dogs must be marked "excused for attacking" in the judge's book.

If a dog excused for attacking is entered in any other events on the same day, it may still participate in those events. For example, a dog is excused for attacking in obedience, but is entered in Conformation and Nosework on the same day, that dog would still be allowed to compete in those events.

Dogs excused for attacking will have it recorded on their permanent UKC record. A dog that has been excused twice for attacking will be disqualified by the UKC and will no longer be able to compete unless or until it is reinstated.

Dog on dog aggression should not be taken lightly, however not all situations warrant a blanket disqualification of the dog(s). The option to excuse dogs involved in dog on dog incidents in the ring simply allows judges to exercise their authority and judgement of the situation and make an appropriate determination.

If a judge feels that any dog must be disqualified, the procedure for Disqualified for Attacking remains the same. A DQ for Attacking Form MUST be filled out and submitted to UKC. If a dog is disqualified it is immediately ineligible for competition and may not participate in any other events unless or until reinstated by UKC.

For reference, the official definition for "attacking" as provided in the Official Rules for All-Breed Events has been provided.

"The term 'attack' is defined as aggressive physical interaction between two or more dogs or a dog and a person. 'Attacking' includes attempts to bite (no contact is made) and actual biting (when contact is made)."

Drag Racing Updates

To improve the safety of the Drag Racing events, Drag Racing Categories have been reassigned. Dogs formerly assigned to Category B have moved to Category A.

The American Pit Bull Terriers and all other bully-type breeds have been removed from Category D and placed into their own category, Category B.

The changes outlined above were effective as of October 1, 2018. Dogs affected by these changes will retain

any 2018 All Star Points earned.

UPHOLDING UKC RULES

The Show Operations department has received several complaints regarding judges who are purposefully disregarding the rules that govern the event in which they hold a license and are encouraging exhibitors to do the same.

If you are a UKC judge, then you must be willing to uphold the values of the organization, its rules for events and its policies. If you disagree with a rule or can offer constructive input on how to revise a rule or procedure, then send your input directly to the UKC for review to possibly start a dialog to create change. The UKC strives to develop strong bonds with all its judges.

Do not blatantly disregard UKC rules and promote others to do the same. Doing so is unbecoming of a UKC judge and demonstrates a lack of respect for the organization and its proceedings.

If you truly do not respect the UKC as an organization or are unwilling to uphold its rules for events, then perhaps you should re-evaluate your relationship with UKC and seek licensure with a different organization that might better align with your values, goals and experiences. Complaints of this nature are taken very seriously and could result in the removal of a judge's license.

How Judging Errors Affect Dogs and Records

Errors on conformation judging books can be very minor and easy to correct, but errors that affect multiple dogs' records can be quite complicated and often will result in completely invalidating a dog's title and affect its standing in Top Ten.

If you are contacted regarding an error on one of your judge's books,

it is of utmost importance that you respond to the request for clarification as soon as possible. The Show Operations staff must validate all wins and receive written corrections from you before any corrections can be made. If you do not provide this information in a timely manner, the event cannot be processed which causes delays in titles being recorded and certificates sent out for all other dogs in the event.

There is no simple solution, except that as the official you are required to verify your judges' books and make sure that when you mark your placements, that the win(s) are verified using the exhibitor's armband number and your placements are accurately written onto the judge's books.

Grooming Practices

The use of grooming and/or coat-enhancing products on dogs has become quite an issue with the number of dry shampoos and other non-traditional products available today. UKC hopes that the 2019 rule clarification will help decipher what acceptable grooming products are.

The use of no-rinse shampoos and conditioners that require water is acceptable.

The use of grooming products. The use of items such as dye, hairspray, chalk, powder, aerosol sprays, dry shampoo and other such grooming products is strictly prohibited. Shampoo and conditioners are acceptable for use at shows. A non-aerosol spray bottle with water only or water mixed with a conditioner can be used on the dog at the event but may not be used in the ring. Exhibitors are prohibited from having or using combs, brushes, or other such grooming tools while in the ring.

Judges who have reason to believe that a dog has grooming products on their coat/skin must excuse the dog and mark the Judge's Book accordingly. The Judge's decision on this

matter is final. Exhibitors who violate this rule may also be subject to disciplinary action by the host club and UKC.

Disqualifying Faults Vs. Eliminating Faults.

Do you know the difference between them and how it affects the future of that dog?

A Disqualifying Fault. According to the breed standard, a disqualifying fault is serious enough to eliminate that dog from the registry. A fault serious enough to be detrimental to the health of the dog and a fault serious enough that as a breeder, you would not want that fault to pass on to future generations of that breed.

In a conformation event a judge is responsible to know what the disqualifying faults are for the breeds they judge and if found, must disqualify the dog and dismiss it from the ring. You must note the DQ on the judge's book and the comment section must indicate the specific fault that was found. Marking "disqualified for a breed fault" is not the correct marking for your book. A dog that is disqualified for a breed specific fault is not counted as competition.

Being disqualified for a breed specific fault will not affect the dog's eligibility to enter other conformation events until such time as that dog is disqualified for the same fault under two different judges. Once a dog has been disqualified twice for the same fault (under two different judges), they are removed from the UKC registry and may not continue to compete in conformation. Any litters bred after the second disqualification is recorded are ineligible for registration.

An Eliminating Fault. According to the breed standard, an eliminating fault is a fault that eliminates the dog from obtaining any awards (placements, championship points), in a conformation event. Unlike a disqual-

ifying fault, dogs noted with an eliminating fault may continue showing and are not removed from the registry.

The philosophy behind eliminating faults is dogs with eliminating faults may still have virtues that can be passed on to future generations and therefore may be of value to the breeding stock. Take for example, the Irish Red and White Setter.

A dog that may be outstanding in every way except he is noted for excessive roaning would be unable to be bred if this were a breed disqualification. If the dog has many outstanding qualities and clear hunting ability, excessive roaning (while not preferred) would not affect this dog from being bred and passing on the outstanding qualities within the breed.

Dogs that have eliminating faults are not disqualified and maintain full registration privileges. These dogs may be used in breeding programs and litters produced by a dog with an eliminating fault may be registered. When a judge has a dog in their ring with an eliminating fault, the dog must not receive any awards and the Judge must mark their judges' book with an "EF" and write the specific eliminating fault in the book. These dogs are not counted for competition.

Universal Disqualifying Faults. Besides breed specific disqualifying faults and eliminating faults, do not forget there are universal disqualifying faults that affect all breeds. This include viciousness, extreme shyness, unilateral or bilateral cryptorchidism and albinism. Judges must disqualify any dog that exhibits these faults and immediately dismiss the exhibitor and dog from the ring and mark the judge's book accordingly.

HANDLER ASSISTANCE AND HANDLER CHANGE REQUESTS

Judges should accommodate requests for assistance. For example, assistance may be provided to lift a dog onto or off the table. Requests for a handler change should be accommodated if the dog has not yet been physically examined by the judge.

Once the dog has been examined, a handler change request must not be approved. Judges must not allow a person to do one part of the handling (such as presenting the dog for examination), and then have another person do another part (such as gaiting). If an exhibitor cannot gait their dog at the correct speed, they may use any other means of mechanical assistance.

THE APPEARANCE OF IMPROPRIETY

The UKC Judge's Handbook discusses the importance of judges remaining impartial and to avoid situations that could cause someone to think that the judge is biased toward a certain dog or individual. The UKC Judges' Code of Ethics also states that judges must always avoid

the appearance of impropriety. This does not only extend to judges socializing with exhibitors but with club members who are also entered in the event.

Take care when interacting with club members who are also entered in the event. It is not prohibited for an Event Chair to compete in the event in which they serve (although it is strongly discouraged) but be aware of your interactions with event committee members in the presence of other exhibitors. Being overly friendly or familiar with them could give the impression that your opinion is biased, especially if you are consistently awarding the dogs of club members. Minimizing socialization while at the event will go a long way in demonstrating to all exhibitors that your opinion is not compromised by your relationship with the event committee members.

TIMELY CORRESPONDENCE

The Show Operations cannot express enough how important it is for judges to respond to all inquiries. This not only includes inquiries from UKC, but also from clubs who are seeking information regarding judging availability or other judging relat-

ed matters.

One of the most numerous complaints is from club's telling UKC that judges are not responding to their inquiry when they are seeking judges to hire for their events. Though the reason for not responding could be as simple as, you were out of town, or your contact information on the UKC website is not correct, when a judge does not respond to an inquiry in a timely manner does not demonstrate professionalism and it prevents clubs from searching for another judge to fill a panel. An appropriate time-frame to respond to all inquiries is 24-48 hours from the receipt of the request.

Please verify your listing on the UKC website in the Judge's Directory to ensure that everything is current. When it comes to your personal contact information on the UKC website, it is your responsibility to provide the most updated information. All notices of resignation, retirement or information updates may be sent to judges@ukcdogs.com.

BREED STANDARD UPDATES

Please be aware the Great Dane and Doberman Pinscher breed standards have been revised.

Attend the Ring Procedure Workshop at the Ohio Classic!

March 21, 2019 • Wilmington, Ohio

Learn about these important topics: 2019 Conformation Rulebook Changes, How to wicket a dog and what to do when a wicket is called, How to span a dog, Variety breeds and paperwork, What to do with an Apprentice, DQ's, Misconducts, Excusals, Eliminating Faults, and Withholding Awards.

Watch for details in the Ohio Classic Premium List.

Coming soon!

Visit www.UKcdogs.com