

# AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY

## The Transition from Breeder to Judge

*by Nannette Newbury*

The following handbook was created by me for a Judge's Education training session held during the 2011 National Specialty show.

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## **Best Practices: General Behavior**

- You as a judge are an essential part of the fancy
- Judging carries enormous responsibilities
- Be knowledgeable of the breed standard and show rules
- Keep up to date with rule changes
- Be knowledgeable of breed type and be able to identify quality vs. mediocrity
- Be confident of your ability
- As a breeder judge, hold yourself to a higher standard than the rules and code of ethics call for
- Be aware of “gray areas” and perceived improprieties
- Demonstrate efficient ring procedure and control of your ring
- As a judge, both in and out of the ring, be above reproach
- Avoid comments that could be misconstrued or misinterpreted
- Avoid personal preferences or breeder bias that interfere with stated judging guidelines
- Above all, be professional in carrying out your duties

## **Best Practices: Accepting Assignments**

- Soliciting judging assignments is never allowed
- You may not accept an assignment before you have been fully approved
- When contacted by a club for an assignment, verify the date and show you will be judging
- Request a written invitation for the assignment, clearly specifying the date, time, classes and location where you are being asked to judge
- Promptly acknowledge all invitations, with an acceptance or denial
- Ask for a contract and a copy of the premium list
- Return the contract promptly to the club
- When you sign the contract, both you and the club have a responsibility to each other to abide by the conditions listed in the contract
- An assignment is not official or accepted until the contract is signed and returned to the host club
- Clearly inform the club of what your expenses and fees (if applicable) are.
- Verify travel arrangements with the club (including which airport you will fly in and out of) and whether you or they will make the reservations and purchase tickets
- Verify emergency contact information as well as other pertinent information with the club
- If you are to make travel arrangements, contact the club before purchasing tickets to agree on the price and flight times (this includes car rental and/or hotel)
- Once flights have been purchased, promptly send a copy of the reservation to the club for reimbursement
- Avoid changes, alterations or cancellations
- Contact host club approximately one week before departure to verify who will pick you up, if a car rental is not necessary
- Make sure you have an emergency contact number for someone in the club in case of an emergency or problems during travel
- Keep all receipts and any necessary records and give them to the club for payment and keep copies for yourself
- Keep expenses down...it is very expensive these days for a club to hire and fly in a judge
- Always send a "Thank You" note to the club

## **Best Practices: Dress and Demeanor**

- Be professional in dress—Men and women should wear business casual to professional attire
- Wear sensible shoes suited to venue and climate
- Clothing should fit comfortably and allow freedom of movement
- Avoid noisy, dangling jewelry, scarves, ties, bolo ties or hats unsuitable to the occasion
- Dress appropriately for photos
- Have appropriate clothes available if taking pictures the next day
- You are permitted to ask questions of the exhibits after judging is complete, not during your assignment
- You may attend social functions before your assignment...be professional in your behavior
- Avoid conflicts of interest—advise potential exhibitors not to enter to avoid perceived improprieties
- Refrain from smoking while judging and only smoke in designated areas
- Refrain from chewing gum while judging
- Never use a cellular telephone while judging
- Use a cell phone or text during breaks only, away from the ring

## Best Practices: Judges Book

- Check the top portion of each page of the Judges Book to verify all information is correct
- You are responsible for the Judges Book—only you, as the judge, should write on the sheets after they are handed to you
- You are responsible for checking armbands against the judges' books, as the exhibitors enter the ring
- Mark your start time before the first class is called in the ring
- Mark your class placements correctly
- If you make an error in the book, cross it out and initial any changes or corrections
- If you mark an entry as EXCUSED, write "EXC" in the box next to the armband number and write on the Judges Book the reason for the excusal. Fill out the additional form for Disqualifications/Excusals out as well.
- If you mark an entry as DISQUALIFIED, write "DQ" in the box next to the armband number and write on the Judges Book the reason for the disqualification. Fill out the additional form for Disqualifications/Excusals out as well.
- If the ring steward informs you of any class changes, you are to mark them in the book and initial the cross outs
- After completing the classes, enter the following information at the bottom of each form:
  1. Number of Dogs Exhibited/Judged. This is the total number of dogs that were exhibited, minus any scratched or absent entries (this number should include any DQs or EXC entries).
  2. Number of Excused Entries. This is the total number of dogs you excused or disqualified.
  3. Judges' Initials. You must put your initials here to verify the counts.
  4. Time Started. You must place the time you started judging.
  5. Time Finished. You must place the time you finished judging.
  6. Signature. You must sign each page of the Judge Books.
  7. Date. You must put the date on each page of the Judge Books.

## Best Practices: Ring Procedure

- Arrive at least 15 minutes early. Report to the show secretary/ring steward
- Avoid the grooming /exercise areas
- Avoid talking to the exhibitors
- Inspect your ring and have the show committee fix any problems you find
- Check your books and other materials necessary for judging your assignment
- Have your premium list, breed standard and current rule book
- Be polite, but generally limit conversation to instructions to the exhibitors
- When judging outdoors consider the weather (i.e., sun or rain) when lining up and judging your classes
- Be considerate of conflicts between venues
- Verify your class entries and armband numbers against the judges books for all classes
- Memorize or make note of the first exhibit of each class to prevent confusion
- Compare the profile of the exhibits for first overall impression and breed type
- You may split the class if a large entry, but be sure to make notation of armbands if you do
- Move the class around together to compare side gait
- Have first dog set up and relax the rest of the class
- Confidently approach dog from slight angle toward the shoulder—never head on, never from the rear
- Be consistent in your examination of each dog
- A simple down and back, followed by a go around will give you enough opportunity to see the movement of the dog
- Triangles and “L’s” and other patterns are not recommended as they do not illustrate the best movement of the dog
- Sending two or more dogs on a down and back together is unsafe and no longer recommended
- Walking dogs on a down and back is not common practice and does not show proper movement
- When you have completed all entries in the class, you may do another simple down and back to remind yourself of the dogs you wish to place
- Best practice; place the dogs in order of placement (1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup>)
- Mark your judge book correctly. Mark and absent entries, excused and disqualified dogs. Sign and date book upon completion and do not forget your start and end times.
- Above all, be confident and enjoy yourself

## **Best Practices: DQ's, Excusals and Withholding Ribbons**

- When a judge DQs (disqualifies) a dog, it shall be marked on the judges books as a "DQ"
- The DQ form must have an explanation, and be signed and dated by the judge
- DQ explanations can ONLY include what is listed in the Breed Standard and the show rules
- DQs are: white body splashes, undershot, overshot exceeding 1/8", monorchidism, cryptorchidism, other than recognized colors, Dudley nose, a dog that bites or attempt to attack a person. In addition, a dog that is deaf, blind or changed by artificial means according to Chapter 9, Section 9.6 of the show rules.
- It is suggested that pictures be taken and included with the DQ form
- The Judge shall explain to the exhibitor/handler the reason for the DQ and inform that the dog may not be shown in conformation events unless reinstated by the ASCA Board of Directors
- When a judge EXCUSES a dog, it shall be marked on the judges books as an "EX"
- The EXCUSED form must have an explanation, and be signed and dated by the judge
- Excusals are as follows: a dog that cannot be examined or touched but does not bite or attempt to bite, lame, growling, a dog that attacks another dog, a dog that appears ill, competitor unsportsmanlike conduct, foreign substances as per Chapter 9, section 9.8 of the show rules, any dog or exhibitor for whom the judge has a legitimate conflict of interest according to the Judges Code of Ethics and Chapter 7, Section 7.17 of the show rules.
- The judge shall explain to the exhibitor/handler the reason for the excusal
  - Withholding for lack of merit or type is a harder decision for a judge. When you withhold a placement in a class, explain to the exhibitor/handler the reason. Never withhold in Junior Showmanship.

## **Best Practices: Timing**

- ASCA does not have a time limit per dog
  - Two to three minutes per dog is enough to give you time to examine and gait the dog
  - Don't waste time continuously moving dogs
  - If you have determined your top dogs it is not necessary to re-gait the entire class (i.e., three or four down and backs per class is not recommended)
  - Be consistent with your pattern and your timing
  - Complete your assignment in a timely manner
  - Many clubs offer two (now three shows!) in one day. Be mindful of the time constraints this will impose on you. Adjust your ring and judging procedure accordingly. Be flexible.
  - Share your time equally with all exhibits
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## **Best Practices: Nationals**

- Be prepared for large classes
- Time management is critical
- Split classes for safety and to allow sufficient room to move the dogs
- If you have to split a class into groups, do not place each group
- Only keep the number you want back into the ring after judging the other groups
- Make note of the armbands of the exhibits you wish to call back
- Release the exhibits you are not calling back
- After all groups for the class have been judged, call back into the ring the armbands you have made note of then judge and place the class
- Give each entry the same time and attention
- A simple down and back then around the ring allows for plenty of time to evaluate the dog
- Excessive moving of dogs in the ring will tire the entrants...be decisive
- Be prepared for ring conflicts; know ahead of time how you plan on handling these
- Judging at a National Specialty is an honor



## **Best Practices: Faults and Implied Faults**

All dogs must be examined for faults as specified in the breed standard as well as the show rules. Implied faults are those that deviate from the stated ideal in the Breed Standard. These are legitimate faults, even though they are not stated as such.

Implied faults are as follows:

- Masculine bitches and feminine dogs
- Taller than long
- Square muzzle
- The stop is too steep or too shallow
- Topskull and muzzle not in proportion
- Dirty and/or less than 42 teeth
- Round eyes
- Prick ears and hound ears
- Ewe neck
- Slab sided
- Tail over 4 inches
- Straight shoulder
- Narrow chest
- Flat feet
- Long pasterns
- Straight in the stifles
- Non-typical coats
- White surrounding ears and eyes
- Hairline of the collar exceeding the point of the withers at the skin
- Non-standard color
- Moves narrow or wide in front
- Moves narrow or wide in the rear
- Cow hocked, fiddly front
- Rolling and/or dippy topline
- Over reaching on side

## **Best Practices: Puppies**

- Be prepared—puppies can be silly in the ring
- Take your time and make it a good experience for the puppies
- A table for the 2-4 month class is recommended
- Puppies may be spayed or neutered
- Puppies are not required to have both testicles until they are 6 months old
- Be gentle with your hands during the examination—puppies may be unsure of you
- Be gentle in examining the teeth—puppies may have a sore mouth due to teething
- Be aware that puppies may be missing teeth due to teething
- Do a simple pattern
- Do not move two puppies together on a down and back
- Judge all puppies per the ASCA Breed Standard—faults and disqualifications apply equally to the Non-Regular classes
- Put your class in order of placement, then place your class and mark your judge books
- For Best of Breed Puppy bring the older puppies in first, followed by the younger puppies. For example; 4-6 month puppy dog, 4-6 month puppy bitch, 2-4 month puppy dog, 2-4 month puppy bitch.
- At a National Specialty or Pre-Show the classes may be split into colors and age. Be prepared and know ahead of time if this is to happen.

## **Best Practices: Junior Showmanship**

- Junior Handling has its own rulebook—Be familiar with the rules and guidelines of this program
- More time must be allotted for the judge to be able to examine and test each juniors handling skill
- Be prepared...other breeds may be shown in junior handling classes
- You are not judging the dog, you are judging the skills of the junior to handle their dog
- A junior showing a dog with severe faults and breed standard disqualifications in junior showmanship CAN NOT be penalized
- Safety with the juniors is of utmost importance. If a class is large, split it for safety reasons
- Never ask juniors to trade dogs with another junior in the ring
- Do not move two junior handlers on a down and back together
- Patterns must be consistent for each class. You may use a simpler pattern for the younger juniors and a more complex pattern for the advanced juniors.
- When placing a class, the judge should arrange the exhibitors in order of placement
- Best Junior Handler class is the first place winners from each class (except Pee-Wee's and Sub-Juniors). After awarding Best Junior Handler, remember to have the 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner from the class called in for judging of the Reserve Junior Handler.

## **Best Practices: Judging Veterans**

- The Veteran classes showcase our older dogs
  - The Veteran classes are for dogs who have reached their seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) birthday or older
  - Be aware the older dogs may not be able to trot the whole ring (especially if the ring is large)—it is okay to allow the older dogs to go around a smaller portion of the ring
  - All exhibits must be examined and gaited
  - Place dogs in order of placement
  - Clapping is allowed and encouraged for our veterans!
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## **Best Practices: Brace**

- The brace class consists of entries of two (2) dogs
  - Dogs should be similar in type, color and markings
  - The entry should be judged as a team and how well they work together
  - The entry should be examined and gaited as in the regular classes
  - The entry can be altered
  - This specialty class is normally found at the National Specialty
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## **Best Practices: Stud Dog or Brood Bitch**

- Leave plenty of room between each entry/group
  - The Stud Dog or Brood Bitch may be altered
  - The merits of the Stud Dog and Brood Bitch are not considered in the placement of the entry—The quality of the offspring is what forms the basis for the judge's placements
  - The Stud Dog and Brood Bitch must be examined and gaited
  - Each offspring must be examined and gaited
  - These classes showcase the merits of the Stud Dog and Brood Bitch as producers and should reflect consistency
  - Extra time is required to judge these classes due to the numbers of offspring involved
  - The Stud Dog or Brood Bitch and all the offspring must wear an armband designating the group for that particular Stud Dog or Brood Bitch
  - It is permitted and encouraged to clap for each group
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## **Best Practices: Most Versatile Australian Shepherd**

- This is a special class for dogs competing in Stock and one other performance event
  - As a judge, you must judge the dog by the breed standard
  - A special form and point schedule will be provided for you to use
  - Each dog is judged individually and the form must be completed before the next dog comes in the ring
  - A hands on exam is necessary to check for disqualifying faults
  - A simple down and back and around the ring is sufficient to judge the movement of the entry
  - Remember to sign and date each form
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## **Best Practices: Most Versatile Junior**

- This special class is to recognize juniors who have the desire to it all
- This class is designed to judge the junior handling skills and knowledge
- This class is judged similarly to the regular junior handling classes with a few exceptions
- A special form is to be used to judge this class
- Each junior comes in the ring one at a time
- You as the judge must score each section of the form
- If you are asked to judge this event, please take time to familiarize yourself with the special rules concerning this event
- Above all, make it a pleasant experience for the junior handler

## **Best Practices: Stockdog Titled Class**

- This class is for dogs that have a title in Stock
  - Judge this class just like any other conformation class
  - Each dog must have a hands on exam to check for disqualifying faults
  - A simple down and back and around to the end is sufficient to judge movement and gait
  - Place your class, 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup>. Do not place in any order other entrants in this class.
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## **Best Practices: Generations**

- This special class is designed to show the consistency of lineage of a group of dogs
- The first dog is the “oldest” of the group
- The dogs in the group may be intact or altered
- A hands on exam of each dog in the group is necessary to ensure no disqualifying faults
- Move each dog in the group on a simple down and back and then around to observe movement and gait
- Look for consistency in the group
- Line up groups in order of placement, 1<sup>st</sup> thru 4<sup>th</sup>
- Due to the size of the groups, do not place any remaining groups

## Excerpts from “Solving the Mysteries of Breed Type,”

by Richard Beauchamp

No one, no matter how brilliant, starts with as much knowledge of a breed as he or she will have after years of experience with that breed. The reason, quite simply, is that evaluating dogs is an art, and like any artistic endeavor, it takes time to fully understand the countless nuances involved.

### The Essentials Of Sound Evaluation Are:

- **Accuracy (The preference problem)**

One of the biggest stumbling blocks to accuracy is allowing what we like as individuals to stand in the way of something else that is equally and fully acceptable in a breed. For instance, in the case of a standard that allows a wide range of sizes, some individuals will arbitrarily decide that they like only the smallest or largest. The liking part is fine, but it should never stand in the way of appreciating a fine dog that does not fit our personal size preference.

In cases such as the size issue, a judge is only afforded the luxury of implementing personal preference when it comes to a matter of two dogs of equal quality. The problem that all too frequently arises is that preferences of this nature develop into obsessions. Breeders often are unable to appreciate good dogs—theirs or others—that do not fall within their personal range of preferences.

Inaccurate Interpretation: if decisions are based entirely on personal preferences, a person risks inaccurately interpreting the breed standard (i.e., personal color preferences)

- **Logical and just conclusions**

An ability to weigh and balance the qualities and shortcomings of one dog against those of its competitors.

This does not mean with dispensing with faults altogether, but is it a warning that beginning to eliminate dogs from consideration based on faults could easily have you dismiss the best dog in the first cut. “Any damn fool can spot a fault. It takes breed knowledge to appreciate the qualities of a dog.”

“All dogs have faults; the great ones just carry them well.” Beatrice Godsol

Mary Roslin Williams in *Reaching for the Stars*, suggests that we should learn to differentiate between “faults” and failings.” She describes faults as “constructional” and failings as “cosmetic.” Faults are those characteristics that stand in the way of a dog’s being what the breed was intended to be. Williams would consider characteristics such as too large or too small an ear, too light or too dark an eye or even something such as lack of brilliant showmanship to be “failings.” These are areas that a very good dog could fall short in and still be considered among the top dogs in its class. There are some failings we do not like or do not want in our lines that may be present in dogs we

look at, but we must be careful to be logical in the manner in which we weigh the particular flaw or flaws against the overall quality of the dog.

- **Honesty and courage of convictions**

Regardless of how accurate you are when it comes to making evaluations or how logical and fair you are in making your decisions, unless you can be honest and courageous you will never be able to really succeed in judging dogs.

No one is beyond making a mistake. Nor is it impossible to add to your understanding of a breed so that you become better equipped to judge it. But out and out dishonesty or an inability to stand by what you believe to be correct is unforgivable. An “accommodating” judge may win many pats on the back from those he or she serves, but will gain the derision of the people who really know their dogs.

- Character and ability: no one is more deserving of scorn than the judge who has knowledge and ability but betrays it by being dishonest or accommodating.
- Prejudicial Conduct: dislike of exhibitor or dog, pressure, compensating for past favors
- Roadblocks to Honesty: indecisiveness, ego, payback, retribution, giant killers, fear, lack of experience or knowledge
- Advertising and its Effects:

- **Sound reasoning**

The best breed standard in the world has not value if there aren’t conscientious breeders actively doing their best to translate the standard’s requirements into living, breathing dog. And, in the end, someone must be available to determine whether these breeders’ interpretations, the results of their breeding programs, are valid ones. The person given this responsibility is the judge, who checks to see that trends in the breed do not exceed or fall below what the standard dictates.

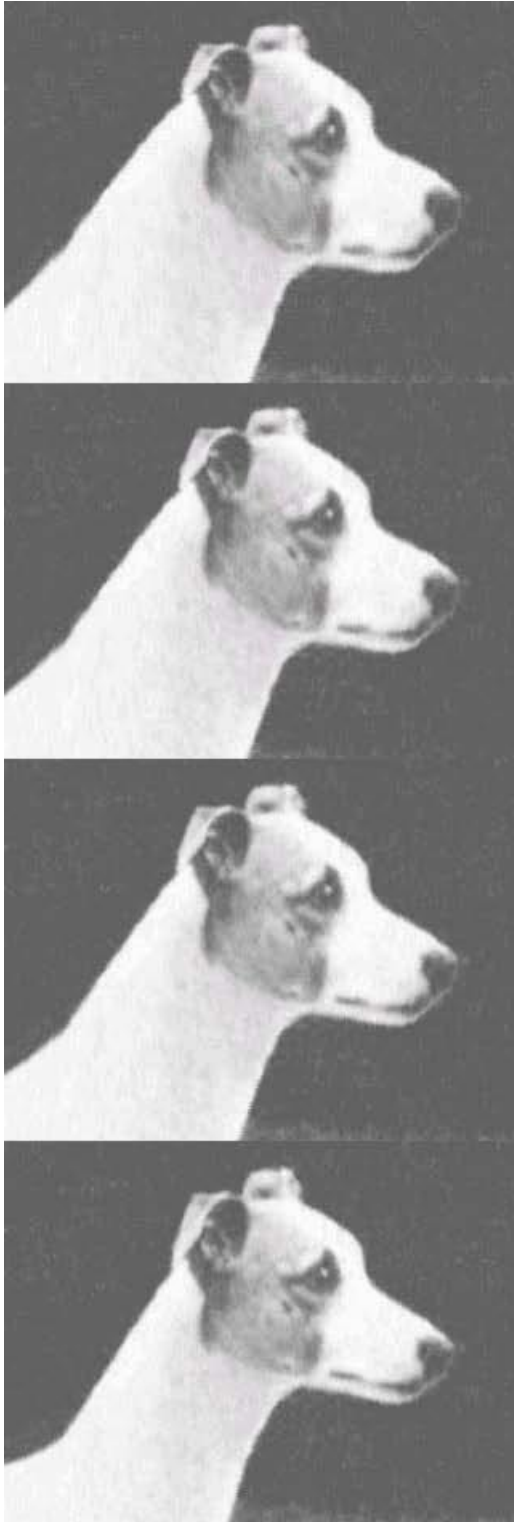
How good reasons assist the judge: It becomes the judge’s responsibility to be clear not only on what a standard demands but also on what a shortcoming really means in the overall picture. This requires knowledge of the history and origin of the breed.

How good reasons assist the breeder/exhibitor: If the exhibitor or breeder is given sound reasons for an evaluation that is less than flattering, it may put a bit of a dent in the person’s ego but your honesty may also create a better breeder or help an avid competitor reach the top. Aren’t you making a greater contribution in your capacity as a judge by telling the exhibitor who lost why she lost rather than leaving it to speculation and misunderstanding? Whether your good reasons are passed along to the person for whom they will do the most good or kept as your own private storehouse of knowledge the bottom line is that they are important to have.



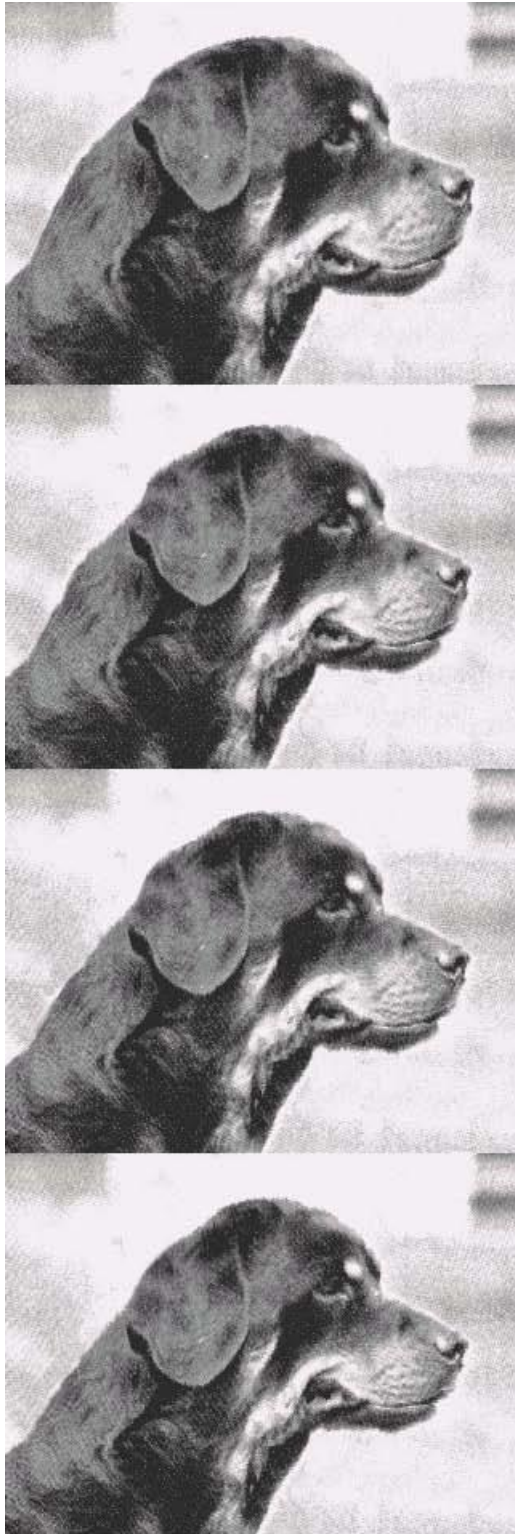
## Canine Terminology—Type

*6th in a series - compiled by J. Seltzer*



A Rottweiler is not a Whippet; a Whippet is not a Rottweiler! This seemingly inane statement actually defines the essence of type, for type when used to discuss purebred dogs is synonymous with breed character. It has been defined by the American Kennel Club as: the characteristic qualities distinguishing a breed; the embodiment of the Standard's essentials<sup>1</sup>. However, perhaps the best discussion of type comes from Anna Katherine Nicholas in her excellent book, *The Nicholas Guide to Dog Judging*:

It refers to the combination of distinguishing features which add up to make each breed's stamp of individuality. A dog to be "typey", or of correct type, must be strong in these points, or features, considered by the Standard as characteristic of his breed. The word "type" is constantly abused by fanciers who misuse it as an expression of personal preference, and incorrectly in other ways. This is extremely confusing to those who wish to learn. We often hear a person say that a dog is, or is not, the type Pointer, or Poodle, or Boxer he does or does not prefer. Actually, there can be only one correct type within a breed. There are breeds in which the males are stronger in breed characteristics than are the females, but not of a different type. In all breeds, type is never a matter of personal preference, but rather an adherence to desired breed characteristics. A dog of good type is as just described. One of poor type is incorrect in those special features peculiar to his own breed. And one lacking in type is weak in distinguishing breed characteristics.



Variations within a breed do not make dogs of different type. The fact that a dog is small, or large, or heavily boned, or light in bone, extremely muscular, or overly refined, does not make a different type dog from others of its breed. Dogs of the same breed are basically the same type. Differences in individual features and conformation are exactly that. These features and the dog's general conformation must be evaluated point by point, faults against virtues, to decide which dog most closely conforms to the ideal type described in the Standard, and is thus the more typical, or better specimen of his breed.

A typey dog catches the expert eye on sight, being the very embodiment of his breed's heart and character. It is not just balance, nor flashy style, nor sound action, but a living example of the distinguishing features which make him of one special breed. A dog lacking in type is a common dog with little to offer his breed, even though he may be well-balanced, sound, and beautifully presented. A dog excelling in type is a valuable asset to his breed, even should he possess minor flaws in other respects.<sup>2</sup>

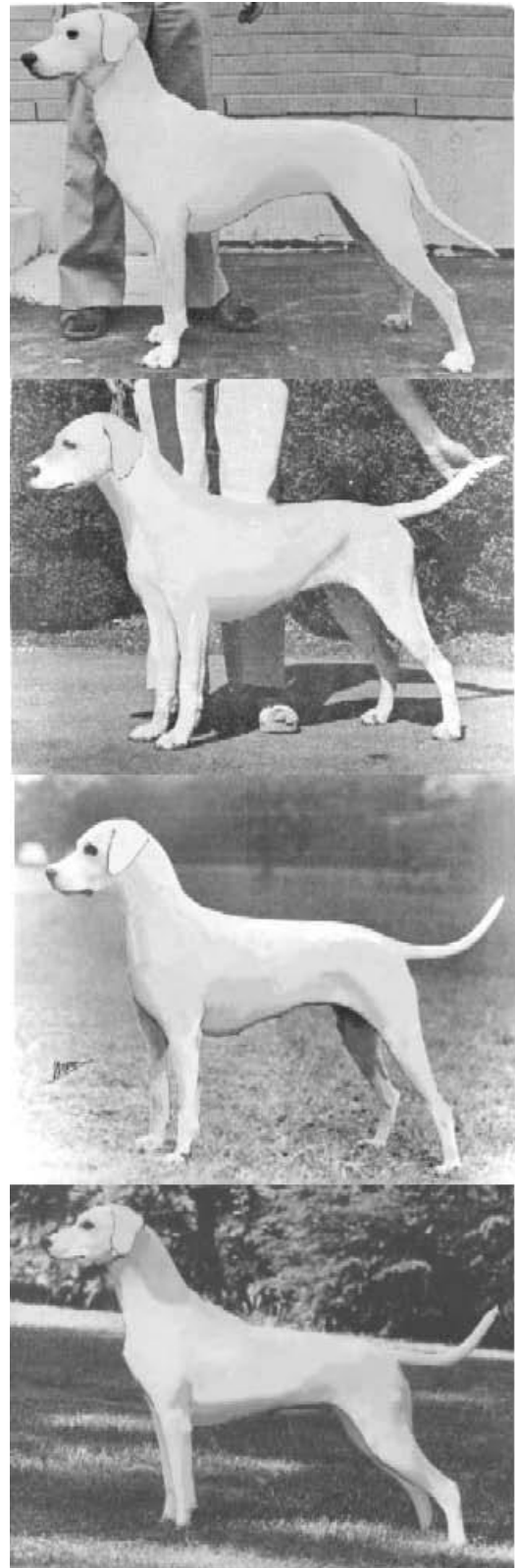
Nicholas considers the understanding of type to be one of the key elements in qualifying a person to be a dog show judge. Her five essentials: Type, Balance, Style, Soundness, and Condition she considers to be the key words in the vocabulary of a dog show judge. But of these, type is the *sine qua non*, for without it the dog is not a true representative of his breed and cannot be judged against the Standard for that breed.

References: <sup>1</sup> *The Complete Dog Book*, 16th edition, Howell Book House, New York, 1980, p 763. <sup>2</sup> Nicholas, Anna Katherine, *The Nicholas Guide to Dog Judging*, 3rd Edition, Howell Book House, New York, 1989, p 21.

In the previous article I introduced the subject of **breed type** and quoted extensively from Anna Katherine Nicholas who argued that there can be only one breed type—that which exemplifies the breed by conforming to the Standard for that breed. Others might claim that most breed standards are not sufficiently detailed to define the breed thereby allowing diverse interpretations. In this case, and I believe it to be the rule rather than the exception, each breeder and each judge forms his own picture of the ideal for the breed. In a recent issue the *AKC Gazette*<sup>1</sup> discussed the issue of type with several notable judges; their comments are of considerable interest.

Edd E. Biven: “A fad or whim in a breed can do irreparable harm. In the more than 30 years I have been judging, I have seen the ‘commonization’ of several breeds - a process by which breeds migrate, under the influence of several individuals, from their original intended type to that which more closely resembles the breed that is enjoying great favor. ... Some people try to justify changing a breed by saying it makes the breed prettier or gives it a better chance to win or place in its group...Some people referred to this process as modernization. I happen to feel it is an aberration. Breeds must be preserved beyond the integrity of the registry. Type is steeped in the past and must be guarded in the present for the future.”

Anne Rogers Clark: “Type, to me, is what makes the dog look like its breed. First we must read and understand the standard for the breed we are evaluating . Next we must apply what we’ve read to the animal at hand. Now, how does the dog move from the side? Now look at the dog’s soundness coming and going. What we have done is judge the overall picture, made the first selection on type and rewarded the soundest of the typical specimens. An untypical dog that is sound is worthless; a typical dog that is sound is priceless.”



*A study in breed type - - Dalmatians all!  
And each a champion bitch. Only the  
spots have been removed to protect the  
innocent.*

<sup>1</sup> What is TYPE?”, in *AKC Gazette*, August 1994, pp 34-39.

Derek G. Rayne: “A judge new to any breed is unable to recognize that the current winners may be of a far different type than those of another era...Frequently today we hear exhibitors and judges say a certain dog is the greatest living example of that breed. Unfortunately, this dog may be very showy and sound but is not, in reality, the true type of this breed as were the winners of 20 or 30 years ago. Many breeds today have lost their true type. We must realize that true type is the quintessence of any breed. A healthy farm dog trotting down a country lane has all the attributes that are found in most standards of most breeds—all it lacks is type!”

R. William Taylor: “There are those who will say that there can be only one correct in a breed, others that a breed should have various types needed to breed and maintain the idea. While these different types perhaps are necessary in the breeding kennel, it is seldom that a judge will vary his or her idea of type when judging both sexes of a breed, taking into account the variations of the sexes. It is the virtues of a breed, when found together in abundance, that will decide type in an individual dog. All dogs possess faults in varying degrees, most of which will not alter type. A Pekingese must have a bowed front. If it has a straight terrier front, that fault will preclude the dog from being typical. It is therefore lacking in type. Back in the 1950s Ernest Eberhard wrote, ‘An ability to recognize type at a glance is a breeder’s greatest gift. Ask the successful breeders to explain this subject. There is no other way of learning.’ ”

Dorothy Welsh: “Certainly, when we view old paintings depicting dogs of the past, type was different. A trip to the Dog Museum in St. Louis makes us aware of basic breed types and how they have evolved. As our civilization progresses, change is the only constant. So what do we mean when we call a dog “typey” or lacking in breed type? The essence of the reason for the breed’s existence should be easily visible, definable and reproducible. In my opinion the true test of type is in the whelping pen. Unless a dog or bitch can reproduce the best of his or her breed type, the term has no lasting effect on the future of that breed. We, as fanciers, breeders and judges, must be able to define type and find it, or the lack of it, in dogs in the show ring. We must constantly work to hold that type, so that 100 years from now we will be known as good stewards of the breeds we are involved in.”



# Judging the English Cocker Spaniel

By Anne Rogers Clark

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*Transcribed from tapes recorded at The Dog Judges' Association of America Symposium  
February 8 - 9, 1980, New York City*

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From the Standard we must ascertain what is the correct type for the English Cocker Spaniel. Type, to me, is what makes the dog look like its breed, and I must, from my own logic, start at one point and continue on from there.

Correct type in an English cocker, in my opinion, is apparent in examining the animal in direct profile: What is its proportion? Its balance of length of leg to length of body. Its balance of bone to size. Its balance of neck length to back length. Its proportion of overall length of head to size of dog. Its length of foreface in proportion to length of backskull. Its depth of head in proportion to head length. Are the head planes level? Does the topline slope naturally? Does the elbow appear to be just underneath the highest point of the shoulder? Does the shoulder and forearm balance in approximate equal lengths? And is there an angle formed that is somewhere near 100 degrees between these two bones? Does the hindquarter stand comfortably just behind the body with a well-bent low stifle and short hock?

All of this is pleasing. The animal on my first impression is typical, or can be considered to be within the guidelines set down in the Standard which makes him an acceptable animal to do the work intended.

And now, does he move from the side? After all, this is the true test of the sum total of his parts. Does the topline remain gently sloping? Does the tail come up to fill the rest of the slope? Can the head be carried in many attitudes? Up, as he would if he were retrieving a bird. Slightly out in front of him for speed at the trot. and will the dog be able while moving to put his head to the ground to pick up a retrieve or to make a scent check? Does the front leg freely extend with no laboring action? Does the rear leg take a good stride underneath the cocker? And is it able to follow through its arc, unimpeded by a too-sharply sloped croup?

The temperament may be observed at this time: merry and eager, very typical by the Standard. And all this before you touch the specimen or really look at his head or rib spring.

Now put him up on the table. Check his head, eye, ear, and mouth. Next, the fit and placement of his neck and shoulder. Check for correct heart-shaped rib, tail set, hindquarter and feet all round. Now for your coming and going soundness.

And, once more around to let you see that typical, useful, functional cocker in side movement - the truest test, in my opinion, of the function and fit of all parts.

What you have done is to judge the overall picture, made your first cut on type and rewarded the soundness of your typical specimens.

**An untypical cocker that is sound is useless.**

**A typical cocker that is sound is priceless.**

# **Best Practices: The World of Judging Dogs**

*by Harry Smith*

NOTE: Although this article is written with the AKC breed ring in mind, the procedure and order presented here is a valuable resource.

## **DO's**

- Make sure you know the breed standard
- Check in with the AKC Rep (if on provisional) and the show Superintendent
- Be at your ring 15 minutes or more ahead of time

## **DONT's**

- Don't forget the disqualifications
- Don't forget to introduce yourself to the Show Chairman and give the bill to the Treasurer
- Don't forget to get liquid refreshments if not supplied in the ring

Introduce yourself to your Ring Steward. Discuss the following Procedures:

1. Absenteeism
2. Move-Ups
3. Catalog Order
4. Late Arrivals
5. Handler change

## **Judges Book Perusal**

- Check Class sizes
- Check Size, shape and condition of the ring
- If something is wrong with the ring, be SPECIFIC and change it!

## **Ring Procedures:**

1. Judge by catalog order in every class
2. As the dogs enter the ring, check armbands with judge's book and mark absentees
3. After all dogs are in the ring and placed on the ring's longest side, walk to the opposite side and look at their profiles
4. Then, have the dogs go around the ring only once, STOP at the gate. Remember, you looked at the class and ring size. Where you place the dogs as they enter the ring depends on this.
5. Examine each dog according to the Breed Standard
6. Move each dog down and back on the diagonal
7. Have the first examined dog stand to your right in line

## **DON'T**

- Don't overdo it. Refer to the disqualifications again.
- Don't use the triangle. It is time consuming and not productive.
- Don't have the dog go to the end of the line. This way you will NEVER potentially re-examine the dog again.

**Ring Procedures:**

8. Once all dogs are examined, further movement is up to you
9. Choose #1 and place him at the front of the line. Then put #2 behind the first dog, etc., until you've chosen four. Now point as you speak out the placing numbers.
10. Enter the placing in your judge's book and recheck the armbands.

**DON'T**

- Don't take too long or you will get behind in the time schedule
- Don't move the placings around without putting the first four up front. You may choose to place them standing or take them around the ring once the four placing are in order.

**FOLLOW THE SAME PROCEDURE FOR THE BITCHES****Winners Classes:**

11. Once all classes in a Sex have been judged, bring all the winners back in reverse order, for example; Open, Ambred, BBE, etc.
12. This is the Winners Class. Choose the exhibit you think is the best in that sex.
13. Bring the 2nd place exhibit in the class from which the Winner came and choose the best of all the remaining dogs as your Reserve Winners Dog.

**DON'T**

- Don't forget to check all the armband numbers. Exhibitors have a tendency to use the wrong armbands.
- Don't forget to check for the correct armband number of the 2nd place dog. Be sure the dog the exhibit comes from is the correct class and record it in your judges' book.

**Best of Breed Judging:**

14. After steps #1 through #13 are completed for both sexes, you are now ready to judge the champions who entered, along with WD & WB. Bring all in the ring in catalog order by sex
15. The procedure for judging the Champions is the same as the regular class judging.
16. Choose the BB winner, followed by Best of Winners and Best of Opposite Sex.

**DON'T**

- Don't forget to look at the armband very carefully as you should not give both BB and BOS to the same sex!!!!

**ADDITIONAL NOTES****Class Size:**

- If the ring is too small for a large entry, you should divide the class into subsets.
- Divide the Class into subsets (cuts) and indicate the divisions to the exhibitors. Let all other subsets, except the first, leave the ring.

**DON'T**

- Don't make too many subsets. Consider the size of the ring and choose the ideal number of dogs for judging a class. This will determine the subsets.
- Don't forget to mark where you divided the class in the judges book.

## ADDITIONAL NOTES

### Class Size:

#### 1. Judging the Subset:

Judge each subset as indicated above. This time you will have to choose those whom you wish to keep and indicate that you are finished with the others who may be excused.

#### 2. Judging the Subset keepers:

After considering all the subsets, bring back all the Keepers. (If this procedure is in the class competition, you will choose 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th). At the Best of Breed level, you will choose the BB, BOW and BOS.

## DON'T

- Don't forget to write down the armband numbers of those who are the keepers
- Don't forget to check the armband numbers to make sure they match your Keepers list. Be certain you have not included Winners Dog and Winners Bitch in the breed level subset competition. They are automatically eligible for BB and BOS.

## SPECIALTY SHOWS

In Specialty Shows, there are Veterans and other Non-Regular Classes, i.e., Field Dogs, etc for both sexes. These classes are judged before Best of Breed. In all Non-Regular classes, you must choose 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th in each class. The first place exhibits may be eligible for BB and BOS if the show giving specialty club's rules so specify. Additionally, it is wise for the judge to inquire about possible Awards of Merit and the specific qualifications and number to be awarded. Also, all judges must remember that a defeated dog from any class, is never eligible to compete in Best of Breed competition.

## READ ALL RULES BEFORE YOU JUDGE!

### Prioritization

"Although one expert judge may not agree with another, he will understand the other judge's awards and respect them. One judge will place more emphasis on one point than another. Consequently dogs will move up and down in the order of merit according to the breed points in which they excel or fail, but that is not to say that either judge does not know his business. With expert judges officiating, the top awards will go to dogs generally agreed to be good ones and never to bad ones, and an outstanding dog will never be missed out altogether as happens when people are just guessing."

Leo C. Wilson On Dogs

*Kristina Jusberg & Dennis McCarthy, eds, Robert Hale & Co London, 1969*

### Biggest Challenge: Never Lose Sight of the Whole Dog

Although the study of canine anatomy requires that judges learn about the individual parts of a dog, the biggest challenge is never to lose sight of the whole dog.

Heads are an especially important element of breed type, since they are a key feature in distinguishing one breed from another.

Many judges have difficulty in taking what they read about anatomy and applying it to real dogs, where bones and angles are hidden beneath the surface.

### Examination Technique for Examining Dogs

In contrast to the well grounded belief that "laying on of hands" must be an advantage to an officiating judge,, that depends upon the skill's of those hands. There are a surprising number of judges whose hands quite obviously flutter irrelevantly - without meaning - here and there over a dog's body, apparently imitating a procedure they accept as conventional gestures more like vague stroking,, without applying them to the effect that any significant feature of the dog's anatomy possibly could be revealed.

"Judging Dachshunds"

*Lawrence Horswell, Pure-Bred Dogs//American Kennel Gazette, March 1978*



## Understanding Judging Consistency

By E. Katie Gammill, TheDogPlace Exhibition Editor / November 2010  
([http://www.thedogplace.org/Judges/Education/Good-Judges-Speak-10094\\_Gammill.asp](http://www.thedogplace.org/Judges/Education/Good-Judges-Speak-10094_Gammill.asp))

*“Judging should be consistent and by the breed standard.”*

Judging consistency means to hold to uniformity. Some judges may be consistent but not credible. By consistently selecting overdone heads or too much coat, a judge negates the breed standard.

Imagine a class of fifteen dogs entering the ring. Twelve are similar. Three are “different”. Those who do not fit in are excused in the cut. The other twelve are again judged. Puzzled, observers question why outstanding individuals walked.

Does being different translate as being incorrect to the standard? Why does a judge choose from the type most prevalent in the ring? Is this the path of least resistance or do they fear sticking their neck out? Picking winners from the most consistent type sends the wrong message. Perhaps judges should give a verbal critique regarding placements. Then exhibitors could follow the judge’s thought process regarding choices and his/her ability to analyze and consistently apply the breed standard.

Consistency and predictability are not prevalent in judging today. Some judges are “reliable in their choices” and some appear to just pass around wins. Consistency reveals a judge’s expertise and understanding of a breed standard. OR DOES IT? Perhaps it only reflects personal preference. It might be soundness, color, eye shape, or coat type, but if dogs are judged in pieces, what encouragement is this for breeders to breed to the standard at all?

When searching for the overall dog, “pieces” should only be given the importance referenced in the standard. The goal is to find the dog that “fills the eye.” When “piece judging” is given more importance than symmetry, a new “type” or trend evolves. The enhancement of a fault that becomes so common place in the ring it eventually is seen as a virtue? This is interpreted by many as “If it wins, it must be correct”.

Consistency is not always a reflection of knowledge and it may not be possible in a small entry. The opportunity to judge a large entry is both challenging and rewarding. It affords the judge an opportunity to be more selective in their choices, IF they have the ability to prioritize and analyze a standard properly. What if they don’t? Some judges make “off the wall selections” reflecting no consistency at all. They may be supported for a time, but eventually, support dwindles.

A judge who appreciates soundness or a good front most likely will look for it in breeds other than his/her own. If one visits this particular judge’s kennel, this virtue may be evident in his/her breeding stock as well. There one should see consistency in body shape, top line, and breed specific movement.

Once a judge sorts on pieces and makes cuts, chosen dogs re-enter the ring for a second evaluation. Do judges ever seem confused? Staring at a dog does not make it better. Judges who seek specific virtues often put the entire breed at risk.

Judging is prioritizing according to a standard. If something isn't called out in a standard, IT DOES NOT MEAN IT IS ACCEPTABLE! Common sense reveals all dogs have one head, one tail, two ears, two eyes, and four feet, hopefully all pointing in the same direction unless otherwise specified in the standard.

What new judges seek through education is NOT opinion. They are seeking assistance in prioritizing according to the written standard. Breed club members ask what can be done to assure their judges education programs actually address their standard. Changing mentors periodically during an educational period would not be necessary IF educators taught the standard rather than personal preferences.

Property Classes confuse judges. "Having one dog represent an eye, another foot, another ear, another a skull, another proper coat and top line is like playing Sudoku with breed characteristics. Can't these virtues be seen on a single dog or bitch? How is a new judge to find a composite of all virtues combined, when the educators offer a group of dogs and call out each virtue individually on a separate animal? Judges quickly learn breeders differ in opinion as to what they feel is important to them. If the mentoring process is about what a "breeder wants", why bother to show the new judge the standard at all?

If one sticks to the standard, it takes less dogs, means less confusion, involves less mentors, and is more encouraging to judges new to the breed.

Judging on type with little knowledge of structure leaves winners "all over the board." This causes "fleeting fads" and generic show dogs. A selection of the best of the best requires a judge to analyze and select the dog that is a balance between "type and soundness", NOT front and rear.

Most judges seek continuous education. Good judges carry a "template" of a breed in their head. They simply select the dog that fits into the template. These are the judges who reflect consistency. They understand that a "different" dog may be the only correct dog in the ring. A confident judge with expertise, knowledge and courage will reward accordingly. Then ringside will see a picture of the true breed standard and perhaps be better able to identify differences in the future.

## Judging Notes

### Form, Function & Balance

*Courtesy of Jeff Pepper*

A breed's anatomy and balance are influenced by what were its original purpose and function. In order to most effectively carry out their original purpose, each dog must possess a specialized degree of structural balance. It's understanding how to evaluate this structural balance that is one of the judge's most important tasks. Our approach to canine anatomy will be within the framework of a dog's structural balance, which is made up of its size, substance, stance and proportions. The following discussion of canine anatomy discusses features that apply to a majority of breeds. Not everything mentioned will be true for every breed. Judges need to know what the breed standard says for the breeds they judge. Hollenbeck, Lyon, Brown, Gilbert, Spira and R P Elliott have all written excellent works on canine anatomy and concur on most structural features in the dog. Our discussion is based on these well-accepted view points. We cite references for judges who wish to delve more deeply into specific areas.

### Anatomy for Judges

Judging dogs is a science and an art. The science of judging has to do with the study of a dog's anatomical structure, which is influenced by what was its original function and purpose. We will see that canine anatomy is usually viewed in terms of surface parts and skeletal parts. The art of judging deals with having an "eye for a dog." We can define having an "eye" as an almost innate ability to evaluate a dog as one piece and to quickly and easily recognize balance, quality and correctness in any breed. Not all judges are born with an eye for a dog but there are things they can do to improve this skill. Among them is having a working knowledge of canine anatomy in order to more accurately evaluate the virtues and weaknesses in the dogs that are brought before them in the ring. In addition to benefiting an eye for a dog, familiarity with canine anatomy is necessary for understanding breed standards. Breed standards are written descriptions of each breed's ideal dog and all breed standards, to some degree, assume the reader has a basic knowledge of canine anatomy.

In the final analysis, the better a judge's knowledge of correct anatomical structure, balance and proportions, that is, the better his/her eye for a dog, the more successful he or she will be in the judging process.

### Knowledge of canine terminology is a key to good judging!

Judges evaluate variations in anatomical structures and how closely each exhibit comes to the ideal of that breed. These variations may be between two or more individual dogs of the same breed, or at the group level, the variations can be in how close an individual dog comes to the ideal anatomical description of its breed standard. Regardless of the breed, all breeds have the same bones and muscles. Anatomy differs among breeds with regard to the size, length and angle of bones and the size and power of the muscles. For this reason, certain basics of anatomy can be applied to all breeds. A key to understanding and learning canine anatomy is knowing the meaning of key words and terminology which define a dog's structure.

**Balance:** "The pleasing, harmonious and well-proportioned blend-in of an animal's parts and features resulting in a final composite effect of total symmetry" (Spira, p 22)

In addition to Spira's definition of balance as a "well proportioned blend-in of an animal's parts," we can also think of balance as a "portrait of breed type" (Hollenbeck, p62).

Although balance is itself an intangible concept, which means it may be perceived differently by different people, there are important tangible features that go into making up a dog's structural balance. These include:

1. Size
2. Substance
3. Stance
4. Proportions

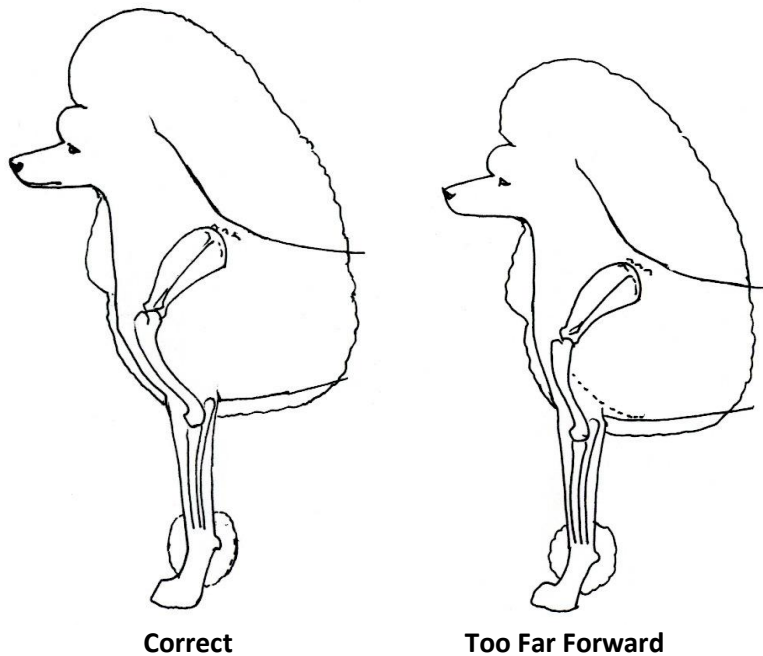
### **Proportions**

Up to this point, we have been discussing three features that help define a breed's structural balance. These traits are size, substance and stance. We will now discuss a fourth category of features that relate to structural balance, which is the concept of proportion and how it can affect a judge's perception of a dog's structure. "Proportions" are comparisons of two or more features, and although there are dozens of proportions that make up a dog's structure, two of the most important with regard to a dog's structural balance are:

#### **Length versus height and Leg length versus brisket depth**

It goes without saying that judges should know the desired length versus height and leg length versus brisket depth for every breed they judge.

#### **Estimating Shoulder Placement**



With the exception of forequarters for breeds built for speed, to determine the placement of the shoulder assembly, drop a plumb line from the caudal angle of the shoulder blade. In the above example, if the upper arm and shoulder blade are of the correct length and almost equal in length, and the plumb line intersects the point of the elbow, then the shoulder assembly will be properly placed. For breeds built for speed, where the elbow is set below the sternum, drop the plumb line from the top of the shoulder blade. It should intersect the elbow.

## Forequarter Angle Illustrations

*Inspired by R P Elliott and C Brown*

### Retriever/Herding Breeds: Correct Shoulder Blade & Upper Arm Close to 120°



### Balanced Side Gait

“At no other time can smooth transition, animation, angulation, and temperament more effectively show up the working relationship to so much of the whole. Here will be visible the topline, the back line, the contour of the croup – and below, the depth, abdominal tuck-up, etc., all helping to make up over-all balance, so easy to see, but so difficult to describe.” (Hollenbeck, 65).

In general, balanced side gait is typified by a synchronization of front reach and rear drive that is efficient and functional for each breed based on its original purpose. As we have discussed, whether angles are equal front and rear will vary by breed. In many breeds bred for endurance front and rear angles tend to be quite similar and as a result reach and drive will be approximately equal. In some of these breeds, well balanced dogs, with correct angulation and backline in motion, may look like they are on wheels on the go round. In support of a more balanced and effortless motion in such breeds, some suggest that if a dog has an incorrect straight shoulder angle, it is better served by having a straight rear angle to match it as opposed to having a straight front struggling to move in sync with a well angulated rear. Needless to say, correct front *and* rear angulation should always be the goal.

### Breed Type: by Richard Beauchamp from *Solving the Mysteries of Breed Type*

A full understanding of what "breed type" really means can't help but provide greater access to understanding what separates quality from mediocrity and elevates an individual dog or breeding program to excellence. The greater our understanding of the nuances of excellence, the better our ability to fulfill our responsibilities as breeder, judge, or exhibitor. In doing so, we help preserve the intent of the founders of our given breeds and assist in the selection of stock that will best accommodate that goal.

## The Rule of Fives

*Excerpted from (Akita, Chihuahua, Mini-Bull, Toy Fox Terrier) AKC Judges' Seminar Handbooks*  
[http://www.thedogplace.org/Judges/Education/Rule-of-Fives\\_Andrews.htm](http://www.thedogplace.org/Judges/Education/Rule-of-Fives_Andrews.htm)

**Breed Type.** You should know it when you see it. Richard Beauchamp put it this way "Breed type is such an elusive thing... It is something that can't be taught, but it can be learned. Even when type is present to the fullest, one person may see it and the person next to him may see nothing at all. It is clearly visible—yet defies description."

You've had it happen as you sit ringside with a friend. No two dogs are identical and no two standards put equal emphasis on the same features of type. Working breeds may emphasize soundness whereas Toys stress esthetic beauty and Terriers want temperament that never quits. All are critical to Breed Type and it is by your knowledge of Type that you will be judged.

Rules and schedules aside, it is Breed Type that you are duty-bound to observe, protect and preserve. Have you ever thumbed through photos of dogs from say, fifty years ago? Some represent advances in soundness or grooming but for example, how closely did Saddler resemble the Fox Terrier of today? The Akita of the Seventies could not win in the ring today. But a Chihuahua is still a Chihuahua, even the Taco Bell dog was immediately recognized as a Chihuahua. Many judges take the easy way out—picking winners on soundness, faces, advertisements, or an opportunity to advance. They may get by, indeed, they may get a lot of assignments by making popular decisions but they will never be known as great judges.

If anyone takes this personally, they should not be here. I'm nobody, just a messenger trying to deliver methodology learned from some of the greatest judges. I will give you Five Rules which properly applied, will gain the respect of breeders as well as your peers.

Prioritizing these rules will protect your integrity. You will have done your job. Hopefully this will help you judge every dog according to its breed standard and nothing else. There are many more "finer points" you will study but above all, you should clearly demonstrate your commitment to the preservation of overall Breed Type.

**First Things First.** As a judge, you have to quickly weigh many factors, the most important of which is the overall health, condition, and temperament of the dog. If it is sick, malnourished, unkempt, lame, can't be examined, or threatens to attack, you will disqualify, excuse, or mentally eliminate it from consideration, depending on the situation.

**The Breed Standard.** That out of the way, you will then compare each dog to the AKC Standard. To do so you must constantly refresh your memory on every breed you judge because our minds play tricks on us, some of which can be embarrassing. One judge admitted that a good friend took him aside and said he had been awarding dogs with a very obvious breed fault and that people were talking. Re-reading the standard, he realized that something said by a handler-friend had seated itself into his subconscious but indeed, it was in direct contradiction to the breed standard. The judge recalled many times, when weighing a hard decision, he had unwittingly selected for the fault instead of against it.

*"The best judges read the standards on a regular basis and when in doubt, they refer to them in the ring."*

**Seminars.** Given the plethora of seminars and some of the people selected to present, you really do need to read the breed standards on a regular basis! You should also bear in mind that presenters who, having a problem in their own breeding program, tend to over-emphasize a fault beyond that which is conveyed by the standard, or they settled for ignoring it and consequently, tend to minimize that fault in seminar discussions. If you have any doubts about something said in a seminar, ask the presenter for clarification. If still not sure, go ask two top breeders working in two different bloodlines.

There are judging techniques not covered by AKC Breed Standards but which are very important to ring craft, particularly for judges crossing over into another Group. Protocol on how to approach and "go over" certain breeds. No matter how many pages you take home today, they cannot take the place of examining and observing real dogs.

### **Applying The Rule Of Fives**

Okay, here comes the difficult part of judging. Many standards emphasize one feature over another and that helps but what can you do in every breed, every time, that will earn the respect of exhibitors? If you recognize and select Breed Type with unerring skill, you will become known as someone who "has an eye for a dog" rather than a "popular judge."

Michele Billings once admitted she was having a hard time "getting a handle" on Akitas. I suggested she talk to Roy Ayers, Virginia Hampton, Eleanor Evers, etc. A few years later she did the Akita National Specialty, drawing rave reviews, even from those who won nothing. What higher compliment can a judge receive?

The best judges agree the following five priorities help them define type in each and every breed.

**Breed Character.** When the dog enters the ring or is undistracted by the handler, note whether it carries itself with the correct attitude. A Bully will bounce; an Akita is dignified, purposeful; a Chihuahua may twirl or play; a Toy Fox will strut to the end of the lead and survey his ring. If you don't know how the breed should act, go visit with breeders.

If the dog acts tired, it could be the end of a long day but if the handler can't bring the dog around by sparring, baiting, or gaiting, you must disregard it because you are unable to assess breed character, i.e. Type. It matters not what the reason (and handlers are full of excuses), it is a dog show and you are to judge them on the day. It may be a dog you adore but if it is showing badly, you will be seen as a fool if you put it up.

*"You judge dogs, ringside judges you."*

It is a puppy? First show? Okay then be forgiving but don't award it unless it is as outstanding in type as this Akita puppy! You will be doing no favor to the breed, the handler, or your own reputation. Even a structurally correct dog is a bad example if it fails to display proper breed character and personality. There's always another day and another chance for the dog to convince another judge that it has correct temperament and type for its breed.

It's been said before but must be repeated here. An Akita performing like a Minpin has a serious lack of Breed Character. A dog that droops or is bored is something other than a toy breed. And while a Chihuahua may shrink back from a stranger, a terrier that does so should be mentally eliminated. Sure there will be in-betweens but if you apply for the breed, you should know it well enough to judge the degree of un-typical behavior and its significance in that particular breed.



*“A beautiful dog that lacks character misrepresents the breed. Therefore  
Character is the first Priority.”*

**Outline** is #2 on your checklist. There are breeds with very similar silhouettes but you are supposed to know the difference. Proportion, topline, angulation, tailset, ear carriage—all are distinguishing features of breed type. If you use the ink-blot test and the dog fails, forget it. You know why....

A Havanese is not a Lhasa outline. An unclipped Poodle will still have that up-on-leg “poodley” profile that separates it from the Lowchen. If a dog in the ring makes you wonder if you would know its breed if you saw it on Park Avenue, for goodness sake, reject it. That is after all, why the public chooses a purebred. Silhouette then, is Rule #2.

**Head and Expression** is #3 in most breeds. Doesn’t matter if it is a head breed or not, the head is what owners look at every day. An Akita with a GSD head cannot possibly have the intimidating expression of a courageous hunter of bear, boar, and burglars but please, any suggestion of a chow scowl is a serious no-no. Size notwithstanding, a Chihuahua with Papillion skull couldn’t possibly have those huge luminous eyes so typical of the breed. So even if the standard fails to emphasize the head, it is an indispensable feature of breed type. It may take a keen eye to distinguish fine differences between the Toy Fox, Toy Manchester, and Minpin head but that is the mark of a great Toy Judge.

You have a duty to know and award the dog who acts like it’s breed, presents an easily recognizable profile, and whose head and expression define it as such. If you are down to the ribbon but find yourself confused by a Bullie head with a significant stop, remember priority rule #3.

**Movement**—Soundness versus Type is a worn out debate. Everyone knows you “can get a sound dog at the pound” so we will not repeat that discussion other than to stress that movement is indicative of a lot more than soundness. It clearly demonstrates correct type for that breed. Miniature Bull Terrier conformation affects movement

In many breeds, it is the critical test of correct conformation. Should a Peke move like a Pom? A Bullie like a Boston? Of course not, so beyond soundness, movement exemplifies Breed Type.

Please, on this one thing, do not get lazy. If the Collie moves like a Shepherd, it may be exciting and dramatic but it is all wrong! Do not fall into the trap of generic judging, especially as regards movement. Okay, so ringside will cheer for the big moving dog but does that make the Clumber moving like a Cocker an outstanding dog? And let’s face it, Bull Terriers, Miniature or Standard, should move like a weight lifter, not like a sporting dog!

Do you want to be known as a “movement judge” or as someone who “really knows the breed.” Which is the greater compliment? More to the point, which is more important to preserving that breed? This is Priority #4.

**Coat** is on this list because it constitutes an important element of type in many breeds and is essential or can be a disqualification in many. Go beyond the Maltese or the Old English. Sure, they are uniquely coated, but if you really know your stuff, you know even breeds with similar coat types have subtle but important differences. An Akita does not have the longer flatter coat of a Malamute but does have a stiffer, fuller coat than a Siberian.



The differences can often only be determined by touch. (That does not mean a massage.) Reading about coat does not allow your tactile senses to learn type. A Mini-Bull does not have the coat of a Staffie-Bull. Both will be short, flat, and glossy but the Bullie's coat feels harder because the hair shaft is slightly thicker. While the Toy Fox Terrier's coat looks like a Minpin's, it is ever so much smoother, as though the dog was wrapped in tight-fitting satin. Each hair has a smaller diameter and tighter cuticle, and not to put too fine a point on it, that is the finer point of type.

In some breeds, coat can be the difference between survival and death or fitness for the job the dog was bred to do. In others, it is window dressing but if you know Type, you must give coat a top five Priority rating.

**The Sum of These Five Priorities?** Summarily exclude any dog that fails any two of these priorities. I say that because there are varying degrees of departure from the utterly correct, even in these five areas. If the dog acts like a duck and waddles on the down-and-back, it is wrong no matter how beautiful its head, how perfect the structure, and how faultless its coat.

Judge each dog against the standard, not the competition. You know that but in the real world, if a dog catches your eye and excels in all but one of these priorities while the competition is of average quality with no glaring fault, which will you choose?

It is disappointing when you have to pick the "best of a bad lot" and astute judges complain that it happens too often. Is there a solution? Of course!! WITHHOLD ribbons. Be understanding, offer to discuss your decisions but be firm when there is no above-average quality. In the long run, it is a kindness not to mislead the novice into wasting more entry fees, or worse yet, taking the dog home to breed.

If you are certain in your knowledge, if you have applied the "Rule of Fives" and found no dog you are comfortable with, then your duty is clear. The reason you have before you dogs that lack Type is because too many other judges did not know or select for type. They have allowed breeders and handlers to think you will just routinely give something in the ring the points.

Please. Disappoint them.

*from Judges' Seminar Guidebooks prepared by Barbara (BJ) Andrews  
JEC Chairperson, Akita Club Of America  
Founder and First President, Miniature Bull Terrier Club Of America  
Toy Fox Terrier Club Of America Approved Presenter, AKC Gazette Columnist  
Author of two Chihuahua Breed Books, BIS, BISS, and Group Winners*

## **Appraising Dogs Correctly**

Type, balance, and general appearance are of the utmost importance. As a breeder, shun those faults that are hard to breed out. As a judge, remember that any dog can gait soundly, but no matter how well he moves, unless he looks like the breed, he is not typical of the breed.

Type is the embodiment of a Standard's essentials. It does not matter whether you are an official in the ring, an interested spectator, or just appraising dogs in your own kennel, judging dogs is an art based on observation. One can read a Standard and quote it verbatim, but that does not enable one to have the proper mental picture of an ideal dog or to appraise the dog in front of you.

To appraise dogs correctly, one must possess the basic principles that underline all good judging:

- A clearly defined ideal in mind
- The power of accurate observation
- Sound judgment, which includes the ability to make a logical analysis and to evaluate the good and poor qualities

## Seeking Balance in Judging

*By Gretchen Bernardi, originally published in the Canine Chronicle*

The road to the best quality in purebred dogs is, according to one school of thought, paved with the opinions of specialist judges, breeder-judges or those only a breed or two away from their original breed. Another view point is argued, with equal fervor and conviction, that the same road is paved with the opinions of the all-rounder, not necessarily judges that are approved to judge all breeds, but those who can pass judgment on many breeds across a wide spectrum of groups. In this discussion, I want to avoid the extreme definitions of breeder-judge versus all-rounder in general, since there are a lot of judges who fall in the middle, such as Whippet judges who judge only sighthounds, etc. and multiple group judges who are not, literally speaking, all-rounders.

In my youth and naiveté (make that stupidity) I was certain that only the breeder-judges specific to my breed were capable of doing a worthy job. I came to realize, as most of us do...or did...that all breeds need a balance of the two types of judges to keep a breed, any breed, in the best possible shape insofar as that description relates to conformation.

We haven't pleased all exhibitors, of course. There are, in all breeds, breeders and exhibitors who refuse to show their dogs under all-breed judges (again, I am using that term to mean judges who judge at least one group outside of their original breed/group, not necessarily one who can judge all breeds) and some even refuse to show at all breed shows. And, conversely, there are in all breeds those who refuse to show at specialties and only exhibit at all-breed shows and the occasional group show. The reasons for these choices seem to be similar across all breeds.

The exhibitor who shows only at specialties is almost always a breeder and very often one who has made significant contributions to the breed through a successful breeding program. The most frequent reason given is that he or she simply doesn't care about all-breed shows or the wins and cares only about the opinion of other respected breeders. This exhibitor often is not interested in having championship titles unless the points are awarded by specialist judges. Whether this attitude says something important about dog show judges or about the exhibitor himself is an important subject best left for another day.

Exhibitors who show their own dogs in this category sometimes feel that specialties judged by specialist judges are the only shows at which they get a fair evaluation and placement. It is, of course, unfair to propose that all other judges are unfairly partial to professional handlers. But surely we must admit, if only to ourselves, that there are people—exhibitors, handlers, judges—who sincerely believe that the top-winning dog in the ring with the top-winning handler deserves to win in every outing. And when it doesn't, something is terribly wrong and that something is seldom the dog itself.

The exhibitors who show only at all-breed shows and seldom, if ever, at specialties, are part of another mind-set and they, too, have multiple reasons for their opinion. The most common reason heard: "Breeders don't like my dogs." I don't know what that means, exactly, or else I do know what it means and can't imagine people making such a statement about their own dogs, except to very close friends.

These exhibitors complain that only the well-known breeders go up under specialist judges and others complain that those judges overlook the top-winning dogs. In fact, the cry of “crooked judging” is heard equally from both categories as it has since the first dog show.

When we talk about balance in judging, requesting and valuing the opinion of both specialist judges and all-rounders, we usually have in mind type versus soundness. We presume that the specialist, particularly the judge in one specific breed, is most interested in the nuances of the breed and will seek out for high placement those dogs that are “dripping in type,” with less emphasis on basic soundness. We must then presume, correctly or not, that the multi-breed judge might miss some of the finer points of a breed and place greater emphasis on soundness – the “down and back” kind of judge.

The type versus soundness debate is an old one and the comment is frequently made that the two are inseparable and that soundness and movement are part of type. This question has never been better explored than by the late Hayes Blake Hoyt, an international authority on all dogs, but especially the Poodle. Quoted frequently, his article, *Four Definitions from Visualizations of the Dog Standards*<sup>1</sup>, always deserves repeated reading and serious thought:

“It might seem to the novice breeder that these two qualities are opposed, as well as being of equal value, and that, therefore, one has to choose between them!

“Now this is a common confusion among dog people where there should be none. For ‘type’ and ‘soundness’ are never opposed, nor are they equal in importance to the judge. The breeder will, and should, have a different value concerning them as we shall see at the end of this article; nevertheless, to both breeder and judge, type and soundness are separately important to a purebred dog.

“They are not equal in importance to the judge because a breed, to be distinctive from other breeds, MUST have type; if a dog lacks type, one may not even know what kind of dog it is! For example, a mongrel may be gloriously sound but as it lacks type we do not know what particular breed it represents; we may not be able to even evaluate its soundness! Therefore, in a purebred dog, TYPE IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE. However, no matter how typical it may be, if it IS unsound, it should not win in the show ring.”

So, if we truly are seeking honest and expert evaluations of our dogs when we exhibit them, we need to seek the opinions of judges from specific backgrounds AND from those exceptionally talented multi-breed judges that have found that “sweet spot” in the type-versus-soundness equation. In order to maintain not just type in a loose definition of the word and the dogs, but type as it includes the finer points of the breed, we need the opinion of breeder judges. Without these opinions, all breeds slide deeper into the generic rut. In order to maintain physical soundness and correct movement (knowing, of course, that not all movement in all breeds is considered “sound” by all judges), we need the opinion of judges who are less secure in breed type and therefore put their emphasis on soundness.

This all makes sense but something has gone wrong. There seems to be a widening gap between the choices made by judges from both schools when, logically, that gap should be narrowing as judges-in-training are required to attend specialties, breed seminars and have productive conversations with what we now hopefully call “mentors.” It is not unusual to see dogs win a specialty on one day and not make

the first cut in breed judging at the following satellite all-breed show. It is no longer surprising to see Winners Dogs and Bitches at large regional and national specialties not receive a class ribbon at an all-breed show the next day. And it is not unheard of to hear of dogs of high quality winning large specialties out of the classes under respected and experienced breeder judges then going on to have trouble attaining a championship title.

What could explain this discrepancy in judging and is it a new and growing factor in dog shows? I don't want to blame everything that is wrong on the ever-increasing number of shows (although I suppose I try), but more shows certainly need more judges and the economy of dog shows makes multiple group judges more appealing. People who apply for judging approval certainly want to judge dog shows or why would they go to the trouble and expense of the process. So people are moving far afield of their original breed and group in the pursuit of more breeds, more groups to make themselves appealing to clubs putting together their panels.

There are judges among us who have an abundance of talent, who seem to judge more by intuition than others and can move with ease through the groups until they reach the level at which they feel comfortable. We say these people have an "eye" for a good dog, but these individuals have more than an "eye"; they also have complete knowledge of the standards of the breeds. Because of this combination of innate talent and acquired knowledge, they only seem to judge intuitively. But all judges are not equally talented and all cannot move very far away from their original breeds with competency.

Contrary to so many others, I don't have a solution for this problem or many of the other problems faced in the judges' approval process. But I think it would help if we offered slightly more respect to the judges who understand the limitations of their skills and are happy with only a few breeds or two or three groups or, if not happy, at least have the wisdom to know where their competency ends.

<sup>1</sup>Visualizations of the Standards of Purebred Dogs of the United States. Edited by Joan McDonald Brearley, published by Popular Dogs Publishing Company, 1972.

## Preferred Breed Type: Why the Stand-out Dog Can Be A Loser

By E. Katie Gammill © TheDogPlace January 2009

[http://www.thedogplace.org/Breeder/ShowDog/Preferred-Type\\_Gammill-0901.asp](http://www.thedogplace.org/Breeder/ShowDog/Preferred-Type_Gammill-0901.asp)

*“The best dog you’ll ever breed may be the hardest dog you ever finish!”*

The best of the best or one that looks like the rest? Let’s be honest. Something called “preferred type” is flooding the rings today and in many breeds, it has little to do with the Breed Standard. When “current type” does not equal correctness, the best dog can lose because in many rings, the fatal flaw is being a stand-out.

A dog show friend, absent from the sport for several years, attended some local shows with me. Welcoming the opportunity to view dogs in general after her sabbatical, she became visually distressed. Her despair increased when a “less than average” class dog received BOB. The waning quality in her beautiful breed breaks her heart. She stated it would be wasted effort to show a dog correct to the standard today, as some judges feel compelled to award dogs conforming to the majority of the entries.

Observing other breeds, she remarks on the lack of neck, restricted front movement and the lack of rear follow through; we discuss “gay tails” and breed type variances. We watch faulty movement and see coats dragging the ground. Weak pasterns and sickle hocks complete the picture. She wonders what causes this to happen to functional dogs in such a short time. It seems the correct dogs have fallen victim to what one may refer to as the “Perfection of Mediocrity”.

Today, many breeders and owners turn to performance, choosing not to participate in a “crap shoot” where such variety in type confuses both judges and ringside. I make this statement at the expense of being tarred and feathered but increasingly, the best dog you’ll ever breed may be the hardest dog you will ever finish. It will be the “odd man out” and look different from the majority of dogs represented in the ring. Why? Some judges, insecure in a breed and therefore lacking courage, choose to walk “different” dogs rather than stick their neck out. Understandable, but should those lacking confidence be passing judgment on another’s dog?

My old mentor said, “The pendulum of type swings to and fro, but those remaining true to the standard triumph in the end.” Those dedicated breeders have the knowledge to restore a breed to its initial form once it hits bottom.

Should a judge reward a dog to suggest it could possibly assist in correcting breed faults? No! It is a breeder’s responsibility to incorporate such animals into their programs, regardless of success in the show ring. Judges are to judge to the written standard to the best of their ability, fairly and efficiently. They avoid awarding “drags of a breed” when possible but judges have little insight into the Pandora’s Box of breeding.

A respected dog person of long standing approached me with this statement while at a seminar. “A judge **cannot go wrong** by putting up winners conforming to the majority of the type of dogs in the ring on a given day.” My response was “Surely not!” Well, I believe it now! After observing an all breed judge from ringside, I watched two outstanding individuals “walk” because they looked different from the rest of the short neck, sickle hock, smaller than average dogs lacking side gait that toddled around the ring like fuzzy little caricatures of the breed.

This strange “look alike” perspective takes over in many breed rings and not just among judges. Asking a breeder what their standard said about head planes, the response was: “What are parallel planes?” We

discussed the occipital bone, short and medium muzzles, balanced heads, etc. Reading a standard and applying it can be two different things.

Judges should have the ability to articulate why one dog wins over another. So is that why they make terminology common among standards - to make it easier for judges? If anyone can describe a bulldog and an afghan using the same language, please step forward. Removing the “point system” from the old standards has had a negative effect. In a final decision between two comparable individuals, one has an idea where to hang their hat regarding prioritizing.

Should we just “breed to win” or should we “breed to the standard” and expect judges to judge to the standard?

It is a “Judas Kiss” to any breed when a judge puts up a dog simply because it looks like the majority in the ring. It encourages people to breed to “winners” rather than to a breed standard. In judge’s education, they address soundness but type takes priority. Educators assume that new applicants understand structure and corresponding movement. Type without soundness is as detrimental to a breed as soundness without type. A bad front and bad rear working in sequence produces “balance”. Do two wrongs make a right? The goal is “a balance between type and soundness”. A breed must be able to walk to the water bowl without falling over its own feet!

This brings us to the next question. Are not judges “protectors of the breed standards?” Judges education is **not** at fault. Perhaps the problem is what some judging applicants do **not** bring to the table! It is a privilege to pass judgment on a breed but one has the responsibility of understanding “Basic Dog 101”. The AKC’s required anatomy test neither assures someone’s knowledge nor is it any guarantee a judge has the ability to analyze structure and movement.

Some breeder judges today send dogs with a handler giving little thought as to their quality or future effect on a breed. Shouldn’t breeder judges be especially careful to send correct dogs for public observation? Breeders have a responsibility to put out “the best of the best” rather than a dog that wins simply because it “looks like the rest.” By so doing, they are sending false signals to both ringside and new judges.

When judges say, “This must be what the breeders want as the ring is flooded with this type” it is detrimental to any breed. It **is not** about “what breeders’ want.” Breeders and judges have a responsibility to breed and judge to standard.

Should handlers show dogs for clients when they know the dog or bitch is not a good representative of the breed? Breeders and exhibitors have a responsibility to promote only dogs that do represent their breed standard and to sell as pets those who do not! A good handler should make every effort to finish a dog but they too are responsible and should be more selective regarding client dogs. Handlers who read the standard and who have the courage to turn down an inferior dog are to be admired.

Advertisement does not always mean a dog represents “breed excellence”. Handlers do not always present “good dogs”. Advertising carries some influence and if a judge selects winners on advertising alone, they do a disservice to the breed and it reflects on their ability as a judge.

“Priority judging” can be detrimental to breeds as Judges become caught up in selecting for individual virtues be it eye, ear set, feet, or coat color. That is why some specialty judges “put up pieces” rather than the whole package. Virtues are important, but a dog should “fill the eye”. A single virtue cannot take precedence over a plethora of faults! Priority judging explains why many judges take so long to judge a class.

Dismayed exhibitors approach me with serious concerns regarding the direction of our sport. Time and effort is required to understand what makes a breed “breed specific”, and what constitutes “breed excellence”. There is no short cut. Everyone is entitled to his/her opinion. However, it should be a knowledgeable opinion. Personal preference only enters in when two dogs are equal according to the breed standard.

Another issue is “spot entering”. Granted, today people enter under specific judges where they feel there is a chance of winning. However, why on a four-day weekend, do we see one point on Thursday, a major on Friday, one point on Saturday, and a major on Sunday? Should not one support the person who supports them by entering all four days? If there is a major, don’t break it by not attending. Don’t bump up a bitch or dog to BOB without first asking the other exhibitors their preference. Many people drive miles only to find someone failed to show up ringside or” bumped up” a new champion and broke the major. This co-operation is something we used to be able to count on. Today it is “iffy” at best. This is “sportsmanship”!

Watch dogs go around the ring. Some are structurally inefficient. Some shoulders do not open up, the dog reaches from the elbow. Ask yourself why one dog out-moves another. Go analyze short coated dogs. Take this knowledge to your own breed ring and “look beneath the coat”. Understand top lines, body shape, breed specific movement and toy/moderate/ giant. Do some study and then some soul searching. Ringside observers and breed enthusiasts look on in dismay today, wondering where the functional dogs of the past have gone. Sadly, some faults are so prevalent today they are viewed as “virtues”. Winning because of an exceptional breeding program takes the breed and breeders toward breed excellence. That should be the goal yesterday, and today.

Requested to address this issue, I decided to take time to sit back and see the “big picture.” The “big picture” is upon us, folks, and it is not pretty! My reason to become a judge was the challenge to select the best of the best according to a written standard. I love dogs! I love SOUND dogs with BREED TYPE! Both virtues, believe it or not, can be present in the same animal! Through combined efforts and a willingness to call “a spade a spade”, our breeds will survive. Breeding for the sake of winning is a downhill slide. This alone assures the future of our breeds. Turning things around will take dedicated breeders and judges, critical handler selection, and educated exhibitors. Our sport deserves nothing less than the best of our intentions.

Ask yourself these questions:

1. Why do breeder judges “put dogs with handlers when they know the animal does not represent breed excellence?
2. Why do handlers accept such dogs knowing once they finish, they will be “petted out”?
3. Are you kennel blind and do you breed to standard?
4. Should breeders and newcomers read the standard prior to stud and bitch selection?
5. When will more mentors open up to newcomers?
6. And lastly, are “gas money” and “filler” dogs destroying our sport?

Putting a breed back on track requires *ethical handlers, dedicated breeders, an understanding of breed standards and knowledgeable judges with the courage to make responsible selections*. Being a judge is not for the faint of heart. Sending the best dog to the next level and being a part of its journey to the pinnacle of success is a thrill of a lifetime. There is but **one** standard. “Preferred breed type” is like a flavor of the month, very fleeting! *Breeders, judges and exhibitors have a responsibility to protect their breed standards. current fads and personal opinions are fleeting and destructive.*



## Continuing Education

*From “Solving the Mysteries of Breed Type,” by Richard Beauchamp*

Develop a list of Australian Shepherds that excel in type.

What are the specific reasons for designating the dog/dogs as having outstanding type?

What did the founders of the breed want to do with those early dogs?

What may have inspired the breed’s founders to perpetuate the breed?

What other breeds were used in this breed’s formation? To what purpose was the blood of the other breeds incorporated? What were the undesirable characteristics that these outcrosses brought in?

### Character

Using the current dogs generally accepted as of very good or better quality as models, see how their general character (not specific points of anatomy) would measure up against the goals of the breed’s founders? Who comes out ahead?

Using the top winners in the breed for the past two years, how does their general character (not specific points of anatomy) measure up against the goals of the breed’s founders? Who comes out ahead?

### Silhouette

Pay close attention to the silhouettes created by Australian Shepherds you see most often. Compare them with each other, and refer to the standard to see what that tells you.

Form a template in your mind of the Australian Shepherd and view the next lineup of dogs you see through that template.

### Head

Call or make an appointment with a breeder who had developed a reputation through the years for producing dogs of outstanding quality. Have the person discuss with you and show you what they consider an outstanding head and explain why this is so.

Determine the overall shape that the Australian Shepherd breed standard requires and see how well the head of the dogs you look at fit that shape.

Determine where, within that shape, the ears, eyes and nose should be located and become familiar with their relative proportions.

## **Movement**

Which characteristics of movement are unique to the Australian Shepherd?

Research the standard, origin and history for written and unwritten clues as to what is or should be distinctive about the Australian Shepherd's movement.

Speak to successful veteran breeders about the input in to the two items above.

What characteristics of the Australian Shepherd movement have been maintained and which have been lost or are in danger of being lost. Make a note of those aspects of the Australian Shepherd's movement that are in conflict with what you have determined is important.

What physical changes assist the perpetuation of these undesirable movement traits?

## **Coat**

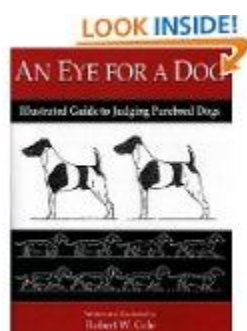
Based on the origin, purpose and what the standard says, write down as complete a description as you can of that kind of coat.

Compare what you have written with the coats of the dogs you see in the ring.

Write down where the breed succeeds and where it fails in regard to the elements that constitute proper coat for the breed.

## Recommended Reading

**An Eye for a Dog: Illustrated Guide to Judging Purebred Dogs** by Robert W. Cole (May 31, 2004)

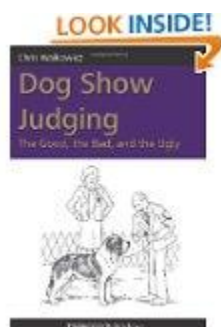


Subjects covered in the book: Type, balance, proportions, features (plus how to highlight/hide them!), faults and illusions, and a very complete section on movement!

- It is written almost like "lessons" in judging dogs
- It allows you to practice and develop your eye with wonderful illustrations and tests your knowledge of several breeds

I would recommend this book to any dog breeder or showman, or anyone interested in judging purebred dogs. It's a great general reference and starting point for dog structure and judging!

**Dog Show Judging: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly** by Chris Walkowicz (Sep 23, 2009)



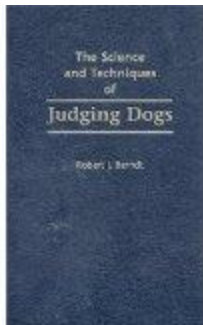
**Annie On Dogs** by Anne Rogers Clark (Oct 2005)



Annie On Dogs is a compilation of magazine articles written by Anne Rogers Clark...one of the most respected judges in the dog world. When Mrs. Clark spoke, you listened!! And learned!! Her death in December 2006 was a blow to all who knew her and she may never be "replaced".

If you wish to learn how to conduct yourself in various dog show situations (some very funny), then this is the book for you. If you wish to understand what goes on behind the glamour of televised dog shows, wish to understand things about those crazy people in the ring and just WHY that judge chose that dog, get this book and start reading at the beginning. The wisdom on the pages will astound you.

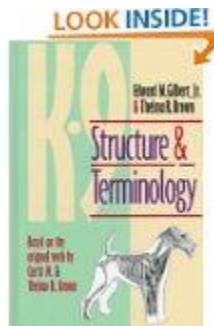
### **The Science and Techniques of Judging Dogs** by Robert J. Berndt (Apr 2001)



A seasoned and experienced all-breed judge and past Chairman of the Board of the American Kennel Club, Robert Berndt also draws upon his many years of experience as a dog handler in "Judging Dogs: Science And Technique", a superbly written and organized instruction manual for judging entrees of any and all breeds of dogs either in general or in specialized dog shows and competitions. Properly judging dogs requires a detailed and accurate knowledge of breed Standards and type, as well as an expertise in canine anatomy, physiology, and topology. "Judging Dogs: Science And Technique" is an ideal and substantial 276-page, step-by-step, illustrated introduction for the novice judge.

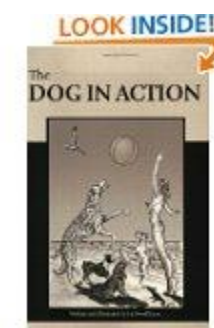
### **The Dog Judge's Handbook** by Sari Brewster Tietjen (Dec 1980)

### **K-9: Structure and Terminology** by Edward M. Gilbert, Thelma R. Brown, and Curtis M. Brown (Dec 1995)



This book will judges a better understanding of the movement of a dog in the show ring. It describes quite well the parts of the skeleton and how they relate to this movement.

### **Dog in Action: A Study of Anatomy and Locomotion As Applying to All Breeds** (Dogwise Classics) by McDowell Lyon (Sep 1, 2002)

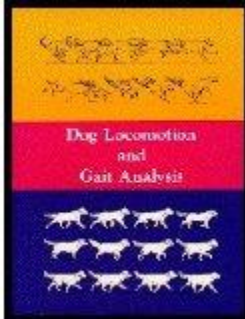


The Dog In Action has inspired generations of dog breeders and judges to watch more carefully, to put aside preconceived notions of how the dog "should" work and learn from what their eyes tell them. While some of Lyon's theories have since been disproved, the book still deserves to be in the serious dog person's library because it is the foundation for all gait and locomotion books which have since been written. The modern dog breeder, judge and fancier will learn:

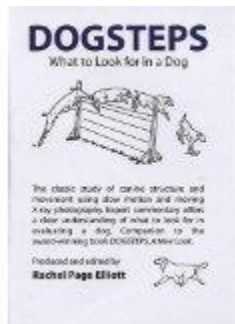
1. To put functional soundness above everything else.
2. Why the trot shows the faults and virtues of a dog's running gear.
3. That every animal that moves can teach us about functional conformation.
4. Why a dog must be dynamically balanced to function efficiently.

5. That no dog can be any better than his bone placement, conformation and muscle tone.
6. How to develop a thorough knowledge of dogs in order to interpret a breed standard.

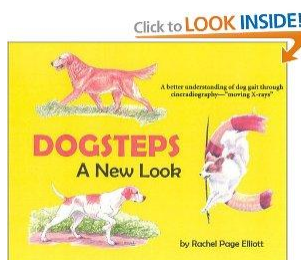
**Dog Locomotion and Gait Analysis** by Curtis M. Brown (Jan 1, 1986)



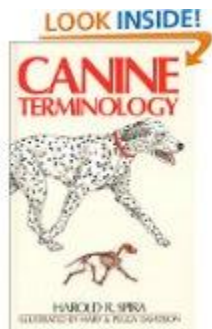
**Dogsteps: What to Look for in a Dog** by Rachel Page Elliott (Dec 1, 2005)



**Dogsteps: A New Look** by Rachel Page Elliott

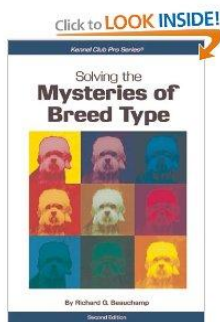


**Canine Terminology** by Harold R. Spira (Dogwise Classics) - Hardcover (Nov. 1, 2002)



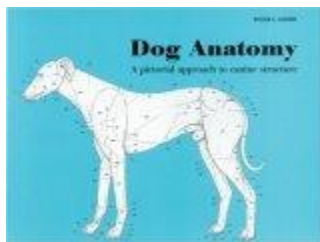
A classic available again! A beautifully illustrated glossary of ALL terms used in the Breed Standards for purebred dogs worldwide. Terms are clearly defined, with reference to specific breeds where the term is used, and most are illustrated with detailed pen & ink drawings by Mary & Peggy Davidson. This is an invaluable reference book for ANYONE involved in the sport of purebred dogs at any level - breeders, exhibitors (conformation, agility, obedience, etc.), judges, as well as veterinarians, vet techs, or vet students.

**Solving the Mysteries of Breed Type** by Richard G. Beauchamp



Richard Beauchamp is a syndicated columnist, dog show judge, and former publisher of "Kennel Review" magazine. This book is a straightforward and detailed instructional guide for aspiring dog breeders, and dog show judges, and purebred connoisseurs aspiring to acquire a degree of professionalism, about discerning the subtle distinctions of breed type. Individual chapters competently address what to look for in various physical characteristics, from coat and head shape to silhouette and movement. Black-and-white photographs enhance the meticulous text descriptions in this succinctly written resource which should be considered a core reference title for personal, professional, and community library collections.

**Dog Anatomy: A Pictorial Approach to Canine Structure** by Peter Goody (Author)



The drawings in this book are very detailed, they are by far the most accurate in any anatomy text book, and they have a simplicity that adds to their impact. The text is a little minimalist, for it is really in the form of expanded labeling for the illustrations.