



## **Hands- On Workshop Guidelines**

Presenters: Please review the guidelines below regarding the conducting of the hands-on portion of the seminar.

1. All dogs should be present at the same time with a handler for each dog if possible.
2. The attendees (presenter included) should view the class of dogs in profile as a group for an overall picture of each individual dog and a comparison of all.
3. Each dog should then be examined individually by all attendees including the presenter. Exam should be breed specific and should take the same approximate time as if judging each entry at an event.
4. After all dogs have been examined, each dog should be gaited individually so the attendees as a group (including the presenter) can see each dog coming, going and from the side. If the room permits, the group of dogs should be gaited together once so the attendees can view the class gaiting from the side as a group.
5. After each attendee has examined each dog individually and each dog has been gaited so the class can view them coming, going and from the side, the class (including the presenter) should grade each dog on their worksheet, stressing to accentuate the positive attributes of the dogs and rank the class in order as they would place them if judging. While this is taking place, the presenter may permit attendees to examine or re-gait an entry an additional time. This should be kept to a minimum and all should be cognitive of the stress placed upon the dogs in this atmosphere.
6. For larger classes, the attendees should be broken into groups of 5 – 8 students. They should discuss the merits of the dogs as a group and place them. The class may be asked to place them in order, or pick out a ‘Best of Breed’ and ‘Best of Opposite Sex’. The individual groups should discuss the dogs while they are present in the room, but away from them so their discussion on the individual dogs is not heard by the handlers.
7. Once all attendees have finished their worksheets, and BEFORE the group discussion on the individual dogs transpires, all dogs and their handlers should be excused from the room.
8. After all dogs and handlers have been excused, the presenter should lead a discussion on dogs examined, once again, emphasis should be placed on the positive attributes and breed specific characteristics of each dog. The class should share how they had placed the class and their justification in their decisions. The presenter should also share how they would have placed the class and their breed specific reasons as to why. While this discussion is taking place, all of the attendees should have completed their worksheets and thus no writing should be taking place.
9. At the completion of the discussion, all worksheets are to be collected by the presenter and submitted to the monitors from the Judging Operations Department in attendance or forwarded to the Judging Operations Department to be recorded. Completion of the worksheets is required for the attendee to receive educational credit for the workshop.

## **AKC HANDS ON WORKSHOP GUIDELINES (CON'T)**

The better the quality of the dogs the more powerful the presentation. Be sure to include dogs with strong virtues - these qualities will be much better understood if they are seen in the flesh. It is best to provide a wide age range of acceptable type(including color) for the attendees. Use the room provided as a ring and take charge of it as you would if you were actually judging.

If the Breed specific examination has not been covered in the classroom it should be done first.

- What is the best way to approach the breed and what are its idiosyncrasies of temperament?
- Why do you use your hands the way you do and what specifically are you checking for?
- Provide BREED SPECIFIC exam techniques such as bite, mouth, the approach, eyes etc.

After the individual examination demonstration has been completed, line up a class of three or more dogs. Have the participants look at the dogs from across the room. This is the time to discuss and compare balance, proportion and shape. Next have the participants walk in line in front of the dogs to take a closer look at expression.

Repeat the above with a class of bitches and field any questions that arise.

Have half the participants go to one end of the room and half go to the other. Move the dogs down and back and field any questions regarding coming and going movement.

Next, have the participants go to one side of the room and move the dogs one at a time to assess side-gait. Ask them to go at least twice so the differences between the dogs are more apparent. Mention appropriate speed, reach, drive, foot timing, topline and efficiency. Turn any questions into a discussion and encourage the attendees to participate. If they are comfortable they will be less hesitant to ask their questions.

Line up the dogs in the center of the room so that participants can go over each one. Work with them individually on the examination and answer their questions.

After the participants have evaluated all the dogs request that they go and stand in front of the dog that is their "best" or class winner. Ask them to speak about the virtues that their choice possessed and encourage discussion at this point. If time permits ask the participants to move to their runner-up and elaborate on the virtues of these dogs.

Keep the tone positive at all times and make it enjoyable as well as educational.

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