



## Ethical rules for show judges

These rules are applicable to judges from abroad officiating at dog shows in Sweden.

1. An authorized judge has an important position in the dog show world. **The objectivity of a judge should never have to be questioned.** Should it be obvious that a judge lacks these basic qualities so important for a judge, or if his general morals could be criticized, the Svenska Kennelklubben Judges' Committee can review the matter, and if applicable report it to the national canine organization responsible for the authorization of the judge.
2. A judge must be well informed with show regulations as well as the current breed standard for breeds he/she is judging at a show.

Judging must also be in accordance with the intentions in the '*Breed Specific Instructions (BSI)*' and the '*FCI Code of Commitment to the welfare of pure bred dogs*'; "A judge is expected to make a proactive and valuable contribution to dog health and welfare as well to responsible dog breeding."

It is important that a judge does not accept appointments in Sweden for the same breed too frequently.

As a representative for his/her national kennel organization the judge shall strive to have a correct behaviour and good manners. Judging shall be performed in an established way with reassuring and convincing manners, giving all exhibits equal time and effort.

At shows held in conjunction with each other (same venue the following days), a judge cannot watch the judging of a breed he/she will judge on a following day.

A judge cannot before the show stay the night at a person's house, who has entered under the judge.

A judge cannot read the show catalogue before or during judging. A marked

catalogue will be given to the judge at the end of the day.

A judge shall be appropriately dressed for the appointment. It is not allowed to wear clothes advertising a kennel or dog products in the ring.

No smoking is allowed in the ring.

With regard to the occurrence of and the increased attention to the fact that the multi resistant bacteria can be transmitted between dogs, we appeal to the judges to disinfect their hands between each examined dog, i.e. after checking the teeth.

In case of difficulty to form an opinion of, for example, a dog's measured height, its bite or a defect on the tail, the judge has the right to call on a co-judge or the officiating veterinarian for a second opinion. If so, a note should be made in the written critique that a second opinion has been asked for from XX.

If a difficult situation occurs the Show Committee should be called for.

If an exhibitor tries to influence the judge (for example by revealing the dog's previous merits) the judge has the right to terminate the judging of said dog and award it *Cannot be judged* due to inappropriate information from handler. Such an incident should also be explained in the written critique.

If *Disqualified* is awarded the reason shall always be clearly stated in the written critique.

Svenska Kennelklubben has a general rule saying that docked tails/ears are not allowed. However, in certain cases it is allowed to show a dog with docked tail/ears and if that is the case the dog is allowed to compete on the same terms as everyone else. If so, the judge is recommended to make a note in the written critique that tail/ears are docked.



The recommendation is that a judge does not judge more than about 70 dogs a day, but a number up to 80 is allowed. Show organizers can be granted an exemption allowing more than 80 dogs in the ring, but if so the judge must always give permission beforehand.

3. **The judge** cannot own, co-own or show a dog at shows where the judge in question is judging. This includes all kinds of participation, i.e. breeders' groups or a dog in progeny class too.

**Student judges in the ring or those performing an examination after the judging** cannot own, co-own or show a dog on the day he/she is officiating as a student judge. On any other day of the show he/she cannot own, co-own or show a dog under the judge whom he did/will act as a student judge.

For persons with **joint kennel name**, they both/all are considered owners of the dogs, even if only one of them is the registered owner. Changes of ownership which can be understood as practical arrangements to evade this are not acceptable. Changes of ownership within six months are considered in this matter.

4. Show judges are not allowed to regularly **show** other dogs than those he/she owns, co-owns or has bred (not applicable in breeders' class or progeny class). A judge can however show dogs owned by a person in his/her house-hold.

General exemption from this is if a dog is staying with the judge for breeding on a time-limited leasing contract for a minimum of six months and up to twelve months.

5. An authorized judge can serve as ring steward or student judge only for breeds he/she is not yet authorized for.
6. a) A dog who within the last six months has been owned, personally groomed, trained, cared for or shown by the judge cannot be entered at a show

under said judge. Should this still occur the judge shall excuse the dog from the ring and give it *Cannot be judged*.

- b) *Cannot be judged* can also be given to a dog if a special circumstance occurs which makes it impossible for the judge to accept the presence of a certain exhibitor in the ring, which, for example, can cause doubt regarding the impartiality of the judge. In the written critique this can for example be indicated "Cannot be judged due to conflict of interest".

7. When a judge is exhibiting, he/she should be very careful not to make comments regarding the dogs in the same class/breed.

8. A judge shall always treat a colleague politely and with respect. Even if the judge disagrees with his colleague's judging, he/she must not speak depreciatively of him/her.

9. A judge shall not actively offer his/her services to specific show organizers. A judge can however advertise his/her qualifications and availability in different media.

10. It is important that judges support, trust and confide in a reputable, well-mannered and serious dog game in their work and behaviour. In accordance to this attitude judges are requested to oblige with the 'FCI Regulations for Show Judges' where it is stated that a judge cannot officiate or in any other way take part in cynological activities, for example at an unofficial show, organized by a club or an organization which is not affiliated to the national canine organization of the country in question. This also applies to persons during their education to become a judge.

There is nothing to stop an authorized judge from judging, for example, a breeder's get-together of off-spring, as long as the breeder is of good repute.