



CODE OF BEST PRACTICE FOR THE SELECTION  
**OF JUDGES**



**THE KENNEL CLUB**

# To all Club Secretaries and Committee Members

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As part of a determined drive to improve quality and standards in all dog activities, the Kennel Club has now developed this Code of Best Practice for the **Selection of Judges**. It complements the 'Code of Best Practice for Judges' itself.

This new Code is to serve as a reminder and a guide to those entrusted with the responsibility of selecting the best available Judges for their particular events. We are not, in publishing the Code, seeking to 'reinvent the wheel' and we believe that it merely sets out what is already widely practised by all conscientious committees and event organisers.

The Code does however bring together those issues which experienced exhibitors and competitors expect to be considered when Judges are being selected.

Our ultimate objective is to foster a renewed and strengthened trust and confidence in our Judges by those who are already experienced and enjoy competing at shows and events. We also hope that our efforts may help us to see more newcomers attracted into the varied activities offered by the Kennel Club through its many clubs and societies.

As ever, we would be more than happy to hear from you with your comments and views, particularly once the Code has had the chance to operate for some time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ronnie Irving', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Ronnie Irving  
Chairman

End  
January 2004

# 1. Aims and Objectives

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- 1.1 The overall and stated object of the Kennel Club is to promote in every way the general improvement of dogs and this objective also applies to the selection of Judges.
- 1.2 The overall aim and objective of a Judge at whatever level, from Companion Dog Show to Championship Show/Trial, is to provide value for the time, training, effort and money which the exhibitor/competitor puts into presenting their dog. Moreover, the decisions of Championship Judges in particular will ultimately affect the future development of a particular breed and/or respective sport or discipline concerned.
- 1.3 There is therefore an expectation that Judges will be competent and may be trusted. Judging is not a right but a privilege. Judges should be respected by the exhibitor/competitor. To that end, the following Code of Best Practice sets out the relevant aspects that anyone should be aware of when undertaking the selection process for Judges at any level, for all shows and trials.

## 2. The Administrative Selection Process

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- 2.1 The selection process should be undertaken collectively by an elected Committee of the club/society and the decision-making should not be delegated without the authority of the Committee. The selection of Judges should never rest with one person or with an unauthorised group of people.
- 2.2 The decision should be carefully minuted and a fair and even-handed approach is expected. As far as possible every effort should be made to research lists of suitably experienced Judges to ensure that the selection is made from the best available 'pool' of qualified Judges. The Committee should always identify a number of Judges for one appointment, in case the first choice is unavailable.
- 2.3 The selection of Judges should be made in good time to ensure that where Kennel Club approval is required this can be achieved before schedules are issued. It is not acceptable to issue schedules without the relevant Judges' names.
- 2.4 Careful consideration should also be given to any additional criteria such as time constraints and geographical considerations, which are to be added to the invitation to judge.
- 2.5 Even in the case of emergency appointments, the selection of a replacement Judge(s) should not rest with one person. Every effort should be made to contact as many Committee members as possible to reach agreement on the replacement judge using the same criteria on experience and qualification.

## The Administrative Selection Process - Continued

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- 2.6 Decisions should be based solely on merit, experience and qualification and not for gain or favour.

### **First Time Championship Show/Trial CC Judges**

- 2.7 Show Committees should consider the completed Kennel Club Questionnaire(s) carefully and the suitability of the Judge to award Challenge Certificates before submitting the Questionnaire to the Kennel Club.

## 3. Kennel Club Regulations – Judging Contracts

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### **Letters of invitation**

- 3.1 All Kennel Club Regulations concerning judging must be adhered to including the regulations for Judging Contracts.
- 3.2 To include the following words in all Judges' Invitation letters:

"In accepting this invitation you agree to be bound by Kennel Club Rules and Regulations and the Kennel Club Code of Practice for Judges. In doing so you also recognise that you are obliged to notify us in writing of any change in personal circumstances which will affect your capability to fulfil this judging appointment.

You should also note that we reserve the right to cancel the contract before the date of the appointment if there is a change in your circumstances, which in our reasonable opinion would adversely affect your capability to fulfil the appointment."

## 4. The Right to Withdraw from a Judging Contract

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### **The Judge**

- 4.1 Judges should conduct themselves in a manner compatible with the standing of a Judge at all times whilst at a show/trial and in any other capacity which might have a bearing on the interests of the canine world.
- 4.2 The Show/Trial Organisers are referred to the factors set out below which may be said to affect the standing of a Judge and may result in exclusion from Judging lists or future judging contracts or withdrawal from an agreed appointment.

# The Right to Withdraw from a Judging Contract

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- 4.2.1 Criminal Convictions
- 4.2.2 Threatening Behaviour
- 4.2.3 Misrepresenting or abusing authority
- 4.2.4 Not judging in accordance with Kennel Club Rules and Regulations
- 4.2.5 Not judging according to Breed Standards
- 4.2.6 Harsh Handling
- 4.2.7 Breach of Kennel Club Rules and Regulations
- 4.2.8 Using the name of the Kennel Club in an unauthorised manner
- 4.3 Judges are expected to decline or withdraw from an appointment which they cannot fulfil. The aim of the competition can only be fulfilled when the judging of dogs is carried out in a fully competent manner.
- 4.4 Ill health of various kinds can temporarily or permanently make it impossible for a person to complete a judging appointment according to the demands which are set forward in this Code of Best Practice and the Code of Best Practice for Judges. Therefore, a Society or Club can if necessary, either temporarily or permanently, cancel the judging contract when Judges cannot appraise their own situation and can no longer fulfil a judging appointment.
- 4.5 Judges must be able to undertake the judging of the dogs with an obvious independence and in a confident and convincing manner. Judges cannot depend on assistance of persons who at various times take over the main work of the Judge.
- 4.6 Judges must be capable of meeting the physical requirements of fulfilling the judging appointment.
- 4.7 From the above it follows that a person with definite lessening of capabilities and who is dependent on assistance or the presence of various forms of technical help, may need to consider if he or she is capable of fulfilling a judging appointment in an adequate and satisfactory manner.
- 4.8 The onus is on Judges who should readily give up judging contracts and/or cease to accept invitations to judge, which they cannot fulfil in a satisfactory manner.

## **The Club/Society**

- 4.9 Those selecting Judges need to ascertain that invited Judges are able to fulfil the appointment.
- 4.10 As far as reasonably possible the Show/Trial Organisers are responsible for ensuring that the aims of the dog show/trial are fulfilled and that the exhibitors/competitors get the quality of judging that they deserve.
- 4.11 The Kennel Club has an overriding responsibility and may in individual cases either temporarily defer or withdraw approval when the judge in question is considered not to have the necessary capabilities. That is not to say that any particular disability will preclude judging – a common sense approach needs to be adopted by all parties.

*End*  
*January 2004*



## **THE KENNEL CLUB**

1 - 5 Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London W1J 8AB  
Telephone 0870 606 6750 Facsimile 020 7518 1058

4a Alton House Office Park, Gatehouse Way, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 8XU  
Telephone 0870 606 6750 Facsimile 01296 486725

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