

Format of Practical Examinations for Conformation Judges

Practical examinations are held annually to give Trainee Judges the opportunity to display their knowledge of breeds in a group by examining a selection of dogs and placing them. It is expected that a Trainee will place the better dogs ahead of the others and be able to justify their placings. Trainees will be given the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and ability to assess the relative merits of the dogs by responding verbally to questions from the examiners. Practical Examinations are the final step for Trainees in achieving Panel Status for a group.

Each Examination Panel will consist of three (3) accredited assessors as per the Regulations. If possible a Trainee will not be examined by a person that they failed under in a previous examination in that Group.

Trainees may object to two (2) Examiners whom they do not wish to have on the panel. This must be done in writing and accompany their application for the Practical Examination. Every effort will be made by the working Party to accommodate these requests.

Procedure.

Examiners will arrive first to collect and prepare examination paperwork.

Candidates will arrive a little later and wait in a designated room for the Examination to commence. Candidates will be given the examination paperwork at this time.

The general CAWA protocols will be observed from this time with no use of electronic devices. Should urgent communication be expected the Candidate or Examiner is to authorise someone else (this could be the Convenor) to take calls.

Standards and printed/written notes are permitted to be used at this time but are to be handed to the supervisor when leaving the room.

The examination will consist of three parts:

1. Part 1 - Five (5) dogs of a single breed.
2. Part 2 - Five (5) dogs of a single breed and a different breed to part 1
3. Part 3 – Five (5) dogs being made up of 5 breeds excluding the breeds used in Parts 1 and 2
4. All dogs should be over six (6) months of age and preferably twelve (12) months of age or over.

Examiner process

- The Examiners will judge the dogs in the normal fashion first before the candidates are directed to the ring.
- At the conclusion of the examination of the third group of dogs the examiners will meet with an adjudicator to decide on facets of each exhibit on which questions will be asked.
- No conferring or conversation from this point.
- The Examiners individually note their placings.
- The Examiners leave the ring and sit separately outside the ring to observe the Candidates.

Candidate process

- The first part of the exam begins at the point when the Candidates enter the ring.
- Conferring and conversation between Candidates is not permitted once they have entered the ring.
- The Candidates enter the ring and begin examination of the exhibits.
- Candidates are allowed up to 3 minutes per dog, with the recommended time being 2 ½ minutes per dog. This time includes writing time and a timekeeper will be appointed by the

committee for each examination.

- The Candidates will then move the dogs once all the Candidates have examined the dogs OR at the conclusion of the allotted time as directed by the timekeeper.
- Once the Candidates confirm the completion of movement assessment, the dogs are permitted to leave the examination and are no longer required.
- The candidates fill out their placings and hand them to the appointed person and then move to separate parts of the ring to await their turn to be examined regarding their placings and judgements on the dogs.
- Each part of the examination concludes when all candidates have been examined by the Examiners.

Examination assessment

In Parts 1 &2 the Examiners may question the Trainee in the following manner:

As compared to the written standard indicate which exhibit displays the :-

- Best type
- Best head
- Best forequarters
- Best hindquarters
- Best neck/topline/tail set
- Best coat & colour
- Best movement for the breed
- Best feet (fore & hind feet)
- Other – Trainee’s justification for placings.

This is to be reported on the Examiners report on each of the 3 parts.

Part 3 is slightly different as the examiners may question the Trainee in the following manner:-

As compared to the written standard rate the exhibits selected each time

Excellent/Very Good/Good/Average/Poor for the following headings:-

- Type
 - Head
 - Forequarters
 - Hindquarters
 - Neck/topline/tail set
 - Coat and colour
 - Height/Length ratio
 - Movement for the breed
 - Feet (fore & hind feet)
 - Other – Trainee’s justification for placings
- Choose
one exhibit
for EACH
question

Each Candidate meets individually with the Examiners.

The Examiners may not confer.

When the Examiners have finished their examination of the Candidate, the Candidate returns to the room used previously, or to another location which may be determined by the examination coordinator, to await the next part of the examination.

At the conclusion of the examination of a candidate, each Examiner/Assessor will complete the necessary reports and hand them to the designated person for collation

When all Candidates have been examined, that part of the examination is concluded.

At the conclusion of Part 3 of the examination, the examination process is concluded.

All results are collated and the final result sheet is to be completed ready for submission to the Dogs West Office.

Practical Examination results will be advised to Candidates within 2 working days following the examination.

Examiners are requested not to discuss the results and recommendations from the Practical Examination with each other or any member on the night or subsequently.

Trainee judges who fail the Practical Examination may make an appointment, through the office, with the Chairperson/Coordinator and Group Convenor to discuss the results. The Trainee Judge must apply within 10 working days of notification of the Practical Exam results.

Appeals against the Practical Examination shall not be allowed unless it is alleged that the ANKC Member Body did not conduct the Practical Examinations in accordance with the Rules and Regulation. The Executive Officer/Secretary of the Member Body must receive such appeals prior to the examination results being notified.