

Critiquing is about sharing your judgment on the exhibits you judge. It can be verbal and/ or written.

Critiques come in many different forms –

- **A word to the exhibitor or answering questions after the completion of judging.**
- **Critiquing individual dogs in a full written critique (this is a normal procedure in most overseas countries.**
- **Providing a critique whereby you explain your placements in a class. This is the sort of critiquing done at lectures as well when it is required by Clubs you are officiating at.**

Critiques can be very enlightening and useful to exhibitors, just as they can be disappointing and hurtful and you need to be aware of this and be as polite as possible and always make as many positive statements even on the weaker dogs.

They should therefore honest, constructive and whenever possible positive. There would be very few dogs that we judge that do not have some positive points and we can always highlight those. Very general and superficial critiques do not provide the exhibitors with any real information on their animal or why your decisions were made.

As a judge, critiquing can be stressful at first, and in our present system trainees are given many opportunities to critique animals and this should be considered of great help and a great opportunity. This is mainly because results will not be shared with the owner but only with your peers. Your Group Conveners, Mentors and even your lecturers can help you to refine your skills before you are called upon to actually do the real critiquing at a Show you have been invited to judge at.

You can choose to make written notes or use a voice recording device or in most cases overseas you need to dictate to a stenographer who writes your critiques in their language. Not many of us have a memory that allows us to write a detailed critique on individual exhibitors a day or two after a show therefore the written or voice recoding on the day is far more factual.

HOW TO CRITIQUE;

- **Make it simple**
- **Make it factual**
- **State what the dog has when you see it**
- **Make it systematic**

- Take an overall impression first, then start with the head and work down through the body, finishing with fore and hind movement, side gait and then look at the overall impression again.

GOOD WORDS TO USE;

- Typical
- Excellent
- Correct
- Very Good
- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory

WORDS NOT TO USE;

- Lovely
- Nice
- Showy
- Good – tends to be used far too often and means very little

GRADINGS ARE ASKED FOR IN YOUR PRACTICAL EXAMINATIONS;

- These may pertain to type, head etc. in your Group of 5 of the same breed.
- You also are required in the mixed breed Group to grade the headings listed to help you when questioned on any of the five dogs.

Our Gradings go from Excellent through to poor.

- Excellent is given when either the type of dog or a particular part of it that the question is on conforms to the latest breed standard. In regards to type a dog that has a disqualifying fault or the temperament does not conform to the standard or it has incorrect movement cannot receive an Excellent. However it may have a head that fits the desired breed standard so you therefore can award that part of the dog excellent.
- Very good describes a dog that also displays typical characteristics of the breed and is a well balanced dog in good condition but has a few minor faults that you are willing to overlook and accept due to its' other attributes.
- A good dog may have some excellent parts and display the main characteristics or hallmarks of the breed but the visible faults lower the whole appearance.

- **Average** describes a dog which corresponds adequately to the breed standard without having the generally known characteristics and its physical condition and conformation leaves a lot to be desired.
- **Poor** is given to a dog that does not correspond to the typical type or it clearly shows a behavior that is not typical for the breed and could even be unsound in its movement.