# JUDGES EDUCATION PROGRAMME (BREED SHOWS)

## CODE OF BEST PRACTICE **FOR OBSERVATION**

*"Setting standards through education"*

*This document is intended for use by Judges, Observers and Breed Education Co-ordinators (BECs)*

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## INTRODUCTION

In setting this Code of Best Practice for Observation the Kennel Club wishes to ensure that Judges are aware of the process of Observation, what this entails, and that Observers are able to meet the needs of judges in their educational progress.

This document should be read in conjunction with its subsequent appendices and must be adhered to as far as possible, in order to meet the Kennel Club requirements for Judging Levels, exceptional circumstances permitting. For more information on the Judging Levels please refer to the link on the 'Judges Education' page on the Kennel Club website – http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/jep

Individuals reading this Code of Best Practice (and its appendices) are reminded to ensure that they hold the most up to date copy. Please refer to the 'Judges Education' Page on the Kennel Club website for more information - http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/events-and-activities/dogshowing/judging-dog-shows/ or seek guidance from the Office, as necessary – judges.education@thekennelclub.org.uk

## 1. WHAT IS AN OBSERVATION?

1.1. In the context of the Judges Education Programme (Breed Shows) observation is a learning and development experience where a Judge is observed while judging at a show, by an experienced Breed Observer, to ensure they are able to demonstrate sufficient ability in terms of knowledge of the breed being judged and also ring manner to progress to the next level.

## 2. THE AIM OF OBSERVATION

2.1. To ensure judges of the breed are assessing dogs in an acceptable fashion for the specific breed and are able to demonstrate knowledge previously acquired during the mentoring stages of the Judges Education Programme (Breed Shows).

2.2. To review and evaluate the observed Judge's knowledge and interpretation of the breed standard and breed specific and general judging issues.

## 3. OBJECTIVES OF OBSERVATION

3.1 To provide an opportunity for judges who have attended a Breed Appreciation Day, subsequently passing the Multiple-choice Breed Standard Exam for the respective breed and completed their mentoring sessions to be observed judging, at a show.

3.2 To provide opportunities for judges to successfully complete an observation opportunity required to progress to Level 3, if the observation is successful. The Breed Observer will be able to provide the necessary evidence for the judge to achieve the 'observation' element of the criteria in order to progress towards Level 3. Please refer to http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/events-and-activities/dog-showing/judging-dog-shows/ for more information.

3.3 To outline the Kennel Club expectations, reinforce good practice, and encourage careful planning and organising.

## 4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA TO BE OBSERVED

In order to be eligible to undertake an observation session, judges must**:**

- Be registered at Level 2 for the respective breed.
- Have completed a minimum of three mentoring sessions, two of which are deemed as successful

It is highly recommended that the following is attained before observation takes place (for a judge's first breed):

- Have completed 12 full days stewarding
- Have owned/bred a minimum of 3 dogs when they obtained their first entry in the Kennel Club Stud Book – save for exceptional circumstances
- Attended the appropriate sub-group Field Trial/Open Gundog Working Test for first gundog breed or Ring Procedure at Licensed Shows (German Shepherd Dog Education Programme) online exam (if applicable)

## 5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR OBSERVERS

5.1 There will be 3 categories of Observers:

5.1.1 Persons who have bred/owned at least 3 UK champions in the breed (Champion or Show Champion) and awarded CCs at least 3 times.

5.1.2. Persons who have judged the relevant group for the breed and have awarded CCs at least 3 times in the breed.

5.1.3 Persons who do not meet the criteria above but are supported by at least 50% of breed clubs (except where there is one breed club, and they have the support of that club) or by the breed council and the KC Judges Committee and have been approved to award CCs in the breed. This will normally ONLY apply in breeds where there are insufficient judges qualified as above – mainly non-CC breeds and breeds that have recently gained CC status.

5.2 Persons wishing to be considered as a Breed Observer who meet the criteria listed above should contact the Breed Education Co-ordinator (BEC) in the first instance to indicate their willingness. The BEC will include them on the breed's observer list.

5.3 The Breed Education Co-ordinator (BEC) will submit to the Canine Activities Team:

a. A list of proposed Breed Observers who meet the criteria set out above and have indicated their willingness to act as an Observer

b. A list of proposed Breed Observers who do not meet the criteria set out above but who have indicated their willingness to act as an Observer, have the support of at least 50% of breed clubs or breed council, or the sole breed club, with the rationale as to why they should be included.

## 6. RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN OBSERVER

The responsibilities of a Breed Observer include:

6.1 Observing and assessing whether the Judge displays a good understanding of the breed standard, breed type, awareness of health issues and canine conformation and movement, and is judging in a professional manner.

6.2 Observing and assessing the Judge's ability to competently judge the specific breed in accordance with Kennel Club Regulations and guidelines.

6.3 Determining if in their opinion the Judge is competent to judge the breed at CC level.

6.4 Discussing with the Judge on the day, their justifications as to why certain dogs were placed as they were.

6.5 Asking the Judge to provide a detailed critique on some of the dogs placed, advising them in advance of the judging starting which dogs are to be critiqued (for example 1st and 2nd in Junior and Open classes).

6.6 Providing constructive feedback to the Judge on the day as to their performance.

6.7 The Observer must complete the Observation Record Form (**Appendix B**). The Judge should also add their comments and upload this form to their online account, with a copy sent to the Breed Education Co-ordinator for their records.

6.8 Referring the Judge to other sources of information, advice or further support where appropriate.

6.9 Keeping up-to-date, accurate and confidential records of all contact with the BEC and judge.

## 7. APPLYING FOR OBSERVATION

7.1. Judges should ensure that they have completed all of their mentoring sessions and contact the respective BEC to alert them to a suitable judging appointment for which the observation may be carried out.

7.2. The BEC should then arrange for a Breed Observer to attend the appointment and complete an Observation Record Form following the completion of the judging and discussion with the judge on their appointment. All Observations are to be arranged by the BEC only.

## 8. ORGANISATION OF OBSERVATION

8.1. Observation may take at any open show or championship show with no CCs on offer.

8.2. It is recommended that after consulting with the BEC, breed clubs suggest judges for breed club shows and supported entry shows who have successfully completed, or will soon have successfully completed, the mentoring stages of the Judges Education Programme (Breed Shows). This good practise will help with the flow through the JEP.

8.3. BECs should appoint a Breed Observer from the breed's central list of Breed Observers. Wherever possible, Breed Observers should be appointed who are already attending the show in question to be mindful of costings.

8.4. There is an expectation that where the judge for a breed club show meets the criteria to be observed an observation opportunity will always be arranged.

8.5. The following minimum number of dogs must be entered for the observation to be valid, if there are a significant number of absentees the observer needs to make a judgement call on if they can determine the judge's abilities:

| Band | Min. no. present |
|---|---|
| Tier 1/2 | 5 |
| Tier 3<br>(Including Fox Terriers, German Spitz, Bull Terriers, Belgian Shepherd Dogs) | 7 |
| Tier 4<br>(including Poodles) | 10 |
| Tier 5<br>(including Chihuahuas) | 15 |
| Tier 6<br>(including Dachshunds) | 20 |

Please refer to **Appendix A** for **Observation Procedure.**

## 9. OBSERVATION POLICY

The policy of observation includes, but is not restricted to the following guidelines:

9.1 Observation opportunities cannot take place on the same day as a third mentoring session is undertaken for that breed.

9.2 Breed Observers may not observe their spouse, immediate family or anyone that is resident at the same address or that they own dogs in partnership with and must conduct themselves in a manner which does not compromise the Kennel Club's Code of Best Practice for Judges.

9.3 A Breed Observer will not be able to handle or to exhibit any dog owned by them (including in partnership with them) under the judge they are observing.

9.4 No person can act as a Breed Observer for a judge that they have previously mentored for the respective breed.

9.5 There should be no charge by a Breed Observer for undertaking an observation, travel expenses are at the discretion of the breed club(s).

9.6 Any discussion between Breed Observer and the judge regarding exhibits must be kept strictly confidential.

9.7 Breed Observers should abide by the Kennel Club's Privacy Policy in relation to GDPR.

## 10. OBSERVER'S RECORD AND FEEDBACK

10.1. Upon completion of the observation session, the Breed Observer must provide feedback to the Judge as to whether they have demonstrated sufficient understanding of the breed to proceed to Level 3.

10.2. The Observer must complete the Observation Record Form (**Appendix B**). The Judge should also add their comments and upload this form to their online account, with a copy sent to the Breed Education Co-ordinator for their records.

10.3. A Judge is required to receive a minimum of four 'Very Good' and above and one 'Good' or 'Basic' **OR** 3 'Very Good' and above and 2 'Good' in the categories on the Observation Record Form to successfully complete an observation session.

10.4. These forms should be treated in a confidential manner, only shared with the Observer, Judge and BEC.

Please refer to **Appendix B** for **Observation Record Form.**

## 11. OBSERVATION ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS

11.1 Candidates with recognised educational needs, disabilities and temporary physical injuries may request access arrangements. A common-sense approach should be adopted.

## 12. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

12.1 Please refer to the Judges Education Programme (Breed Shows) Complaints Procedure located at www.thekennelclub.org.uk/jep

**APPENDIX A**

# JUDGES EDUCATION PROGRAMME (BREED SHOWS)
# CODE OF BEST PRACTICE FOR OBSERVATION

## OBSERVATION PROCEDURE

The procedure for conducting an observation is outlined in the guidelines below:

1. The Judge should communicate with the Breed Education Co-ordinator to alert them to any forthcoming appointment which could be used as an observation opportunity. All judging appointments must be recorded on the judge's account before the observation can be arranged.

2. The judge who is being observed will have been informed by the BEC as to which show they wish to be observed at.

3. The BEC should advise the show society that there will be an observed judging and request free entry/car park if necessary for the Observer.

4. The Breed Observer should position themselves at the ringside for the start of the judging appointment.

5. As the Breed Observer will already be known to the judge there is no requirement for anonymity, however the Breed Observer should not draw attention to their role at the ringside.

6. It may be beneficial for the Breed Observer to place themselves in a position to allow them to have a good view of the judge and their judging method, as well as of the dogs being assessed.

7. In advance of the judging the Breed Observer should agree with the Judge if detailed critiques are required as part of the observation process and on which classes these are to be applied, i.e. 1st and 2nd in Open Dog. These critiques should be more detailed than those required by Kennel Club Regulations for publication, up to 4 classes can be selected.

8. Following the completion of judging, the Breed Observer and judge should move to a private area to discuss the judging.

9. The Breed Observer and judge should have a detailed discussion on the judging. The Observer may wish to ask the judge to explain why they placed some dogs in the order that they did, to give an overall impression of the breed and its merits and demerits as indicated by the dogs judged, on particular classes.

10. The Breed Observer should provide written feedback to the judge and complete the Observation Record Form, to include particularly strong or weak aspects of performance where appropriate.

11. The Observer must complete the Observation Record Form (Appendix B). The Judge should also add their comments and upload this form to their online account, with a copy sent to the Breed Education Co-ordinator for their records.

12. It should be stressed that it is not necessary for the Breed Observer to agree with all or even any of the placings made by the judge. What matters is that the judge is able to give valid reasons for their decisions, and that the Breed Observer was able to 'follow' the judging.

**APPENDIX B**

# OBSERVATION RECORD FORM – CONFIDENTIAL

Both the Judge and Observer should sign the form which is to be retained by the Mentee and a copy sent to the BEC for their records.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Judge's Name:** | | | | | |
| **Breed:** | | | | | |
| **Type of show:** *(please indicate)* | Breed club show<br><br>Championship show without CCs | | Breed supported entry show | | |
| **Name of show:** | | | | | |
| **Date of show:** | | **Number of dogs judged:** | | | |
| **Observer's Name:** | | | | | |
| **EVALUATION:** | | | | | |
| **Comprehension of breed standard, including conformation and movement:** | Excellent | Very Good | Good | Basic | Poor |
| **Understanding of breed type:** | Excellent | Very Good | Good | Basic | Poor |
| **Ability to examine the dogs and judge in a manner specific to the breed:** | Excellent | Very Good | Good | Basic | Poor |
| **Ability to justify their placings:** | Excellent | Very Good | Good | Basic | Poor |
| **Ring etiquette and conduct:** | Excellent | Very Good | Good | Basic | Poor |
| **Points discussed and areas for further study or improvement:** | | | | | |
| **Observer's comments:** *Comments should be constructive and enable the Judge to identify learning points where appropriate.* | | | | | |
| **Judges should have a minimum of four 'VERY GOOD' and above and one 'GOOD' or 'BASIC' OR 3 'VERY GOOD' and above and 2 'GOOD' in the categories above to successfully complete the Observation section.** | | | | | |
| **Does the Judge meet the level of competency to progress?** | YES / NO | | | | |
| **Signature of Observer:** | | | | | |
| **Signature of Judge:** | | | | | |

**Key**

**Excellent:** The Judge demonstrated an excellent knowledge by identifying all of the salient points
**Very Good:** The Judge demonstrated a very good knowledge by identifying most of the salient points
**Good:** The Judge demonstrated a good knowledge and was able to correctly identify a reasonable amount of the salient points
**Basic:** The Judge was able to only correctly identify a small number of the salient points
**Poor:** The Judge would benefit from further in-depth study and research of the breed before progressing their judge's education as they didn't identify any of the salient points

***For completion by BEC:***

| | |
|---|---|
| **Date form received by BEC:** | |
| **Next action by BEC:** | |