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FCI SHOW JUDGES CODE OF COMMITMENT TO THE WELFARE OF *PEDIGREE* DOGS



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Preamble

At shows, FCI show judges are responsible for choosing and placing the best dogs in each breed and thus for allowing these dogs to be the base of the individual breed gene pool as well as the tools for selective breeding for all responsible dog breeders.

Considering the major importance of this contribution to the health, welfare and development of all *pedigree* dogs, the following code of commitment as well as of ethics is adopted to be followed by all FCI judges.

General

Article 1:

- a. This code applies to all show judges nominated by their FCI national canine organisation (FCI NCO)
- b. The show judge shall at all times comply with the FCI Regulations for Show Judges, the FCI Show Regulations, the FCI circulars regarding health, behaviour and judging of dogs as well as the specific health related rules contained in the FCI Breeding Regulations.

Article 2:

The show judge shall carry out his judging of breeds in a positive manner. He must be a good representative for dog breeding and for the world of *pedigree* dogs.

The role of the show judge in dog breeding

Article 3:

- a. The show judge will be expected to make a proactive and valuable contribution to dog health and welfare as well to responsible dog breeding.
- b. From this perspective the show judge will comply as far as possible with invitations or calls to attend dog technical activities, such as information, education and training meetings, the supervision and the holding of breed examinations and seminars.

Health and behaviour of the dogs

Article 4:

- a. For the preservation and the further development of the breeds he judges, the show judge must, in addition to the conformation and movement qualities, consider as well the health aspects of the breed or the dog and its fitness for functionality. This assessment should be clearly reflected in his critique of the dog.
- b. Under no circumstances shall aggressiveness and anxious behaviour during the judging of a dog be tolerated. They will result in the disqualification of the dog(s) concerned.

Judging according to the standard

Article 5:

- a. A show judge will apply and take in consideration the official FCI standard of the breed concerned while he is judging.
- b. He has to be aware that under all circumstances his judgment has to take into account that extreme features which can cause health, behaviour or movement problems have to be severely punished. These dogs should, by no means, obtain the qualification of excellent and/or a championship title. They can never be awarded a Best of Breed win.

Judging procedure

Article 6:

The show judge has to ensure that the judging in his ring proceeds effectively, each dog being judged and treated equally and with respect and using the same procedure throughout his judging.

A judge should treat all exhibitors in a friendly and polite manner.

Article 7:

A critique given by the show judge shall be drawn up in a positive manner, the final qualification and placing doing justice to the actual critique that has been drawn.

Ethics

Article 8:

In addition to the national and international rules for show judges mentioned above with regard to judging, the following also applies:

- a. The judge cannot accept double judging appointments. However as it is the duty of the show organisers to which the judge is invited to judge to send him a written confirmation, he is free to accept another judging appointment as long as he has not received a final official confirmation.
- b. If a judge has to leave the show venue before all the (judging) assignments agreed with him have been fulfilled, he has to seek appropriate permission from the organizers and ensure that he has been replaced.
- c. The judge must always be respectful of the work of his fellow judges;
- d. The judge must report immediately any criticism – accompanied by evidence and facts – which is not based on a positive view but is intended to put him in a bad light or to harm his reputation- to the show organizing committee.

Judges and social media

Article 9:

Judges should consider their participation in social media as any public and social interaction.

The main online actions that are to be avoided by judges are:

- a) criticizing specific dogs, exhibitors, handlers or breeders,*
- b) allowing themselves to be tagged in “win” photos or videos of dogs they have not judged at a show,*
- c) taking part in forums or discussions on specific dogs/breeds before or after a scheduled judging appointment for these dogs/breeds.*

Article 10:

Actions of judges that bring embarrassment to the NCO, fellow judges or the canine world in general can be subject to disciplinary actions in accordance with Art.48.2 of the FCI Statutes and 26.11 of the FCI Standing Orders.

Enforcement

Article 11:

The invalidity of one part or parts of this code does not imply that the whole document becomes invalid.

This code of commitment was approved by the FCI General Committee in Dortmund, October 2010 and comes into force as from January 1, 2011.

The amendments in bold and italic characters were approved by the FCI General Committee in September 2020 (online meeting) and apply immediately.