



Dear Judge

The judge's co-responsibility for the health and functional capacity of pure-bred dogs

Since the end of the 1990s, the Dansk Kennel Klub (DKK) has had special focus on the judges' co-responsibility for the health and functional capacity of the pure-bred dogs and the DKK has thus been a pioneering force in this important field which has over the years obtained increased international attention.

When you judge at shows organised by the DKK or the DKK's breed clubs or regions, we expect that you are conscious of your co-responsibility and we please ask you to focus on the following features:

- Breathing – all dogs should be able to breathe normally and easily, also when moving.
- Eyes – all dogs should have sound, clear eyes without signs of irritation.
- Bite and teeth – all dogs should have sound teeth and well functioning bite corresponding to the requirements of the standard.
- Condition/weight – no dogs should be overweight and all dogs should be in a good muscular condition.
- Skin – all dogs should have healthy skin without any signs of irritation.
- Coat – must follow the requirements of the standard without being so extensive that it troubles or prevents the ability to move freely and soundly.
- Movements – all dogs should be able to move in a breed specific manner without effort or distress.
- Behaviour – all dogs should have temperaments which allow them to function in the modern society. Breed typical behaviour is to be noted and accepted, but excessive shyness or any kind of aggression is unacceptable.

Exaggeration of breed typical characteristics is never desirable. Within some breeds there is a special risk that such exaggerations influencing health and functional capacity in a negative way. These breeds with their respective areas of risk appear from the attached list. When judging health and functional capacity of all breeds in general and these breeds of risk in particular it is essential that you use your experience and common sense and judgment. As you know, conditions that affect the dog's health in a negative direction are considered as serious faults.

For further information, we refer to the following documents available at:

<https://www.dkk.dk/udstillinger-og-events/praktisk-info-om-udstillinger/for-eksteriordommere>

- Breed Specific Instructions (BSI) regarding exaggerations in pedigree dogs (Nordic Kennel Union)
- FCI basic statement for show judges – dogs fit for their original function.
- FCI show judges code of commitment to the welfare of pure bred dogs

If you have positive as well as negative observations regarding the breeds that you have judged it will be possible to report this to the DKK Judges Committee. The ring staff has questionnaires for this purpose. Please fill in one form per breed to the extend you find it necessary. The form can be used for all breeds – not only the mentioned breeds of risk.

We thank you for your important contribution to keep our pure-bred dogs healthy and well functioning.

Yours sincerely
DANSK KENNEL KLUB

Jørgen Hindse
President, Dansk Kennel Klub

Birgit Selay
President, DKK Judges Committee