

NEW INFORMATION ON JUDGES COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

Smooth Collie Breed Education Coordinator – Mrs Cathy Howard

There are 180 Breed Education Coordinators of which your nominated Breed Education Coordinator (BEC) is Mrs Cathy Howard who can be contacted by email at roughcollie@sky.com or by telephone on 01406 351496.

Each BEC will be required to keep up to date information of ALL Judges from those who are just starting out at entry level through to Level 3 and there is also a contact list for all Judges/Mentors/Observers that will be held with the BEC along with the Kennel Club. All BEC's will have to submit an Annual Report from 2020 onward to the Kennel Club which will contain information on BAD/MCE days, there will be at least 2 supported General Open Shows for each breed of which information will be submitted to the KC along with information on individual Judges progression, in the meantime, a list of proposed Mentors and Observers needs to be submitted to the Kennel Club and once this has been submitted, Judges can then ask to be Mentored (Mentoring sessions by 3 different Mentors within a minimum period of 1 calendar year – See KC Code of Best Practise). There will be no Observations until 2022 as anyone following the new JCF route will be required to have had 3 Mentor sessions before they can be observed whilst Judging and anyone who is following the route of A2 List should have had their A2 Application submitted by the Club by the end of December 2021.

All Breed Clubs will be required to perform a BAD/MCE day at least once every 2 years. All Breed Clubs will have to support at least 2 General Open Shows for each breed whereby Judges from the new Levels will be nominated with the Support of the Breed Club.

Transition period

The JCF will **formally start in January 2019** on a phased basis, and run alongside the current system for a three-year transition period, and be **fully operational from January 2022**. It is anticipated that the new IT system will be in place by the end of 2019. The education will be supported by the network of Breed Education Coordinators who will help facilitate learning.

All judges will be required to remain up to date with their general dog show knowledge by taking the mandatory online 'Requirements of a Dog Show Judge' exam every five years to remain active. There is no time limit on how long a BEC can stay in position (ie having to be elected yearly etc) it is an ongoing appointment.

Breed clubs will remain responsible for providing breed-specific education, and the JCF will also require judges to undergo mentoring and ringside observation. Breed clubs will be required to support this activity and to work with the Kennel Club to facilitate organising Breed Competence Assessments.

The Kennel Club are emphasising that anyone that is either currently B List or A3 List and very close to being able to progress to A2, that ALL Breed Clubs are encouraged to put through these Judges on the current A2 route by submitting A2 applications prior to 31st December 2021 as otherwise if they remain on B List or A3 at 31st December 2021, they will have to transition over as either Level 2 or Level 3 with the further training that goes with it, which will set these particular Judges back.

The whole point of the new JCF is as follows:-

The JCF requires judges to progress in a logical way, learning the basics, attending Breed Appreciation Days, being mentored, then observed judging, and finally taking a Breed Competence Assessment.

The JCF starts at entry level, before a person steps into the ring for their very first appointment, and goes all the way through to the rare position of an all-breeds judge – seven levels in all. Judges can remain at any one of the levels if they so wish and can also be at different levels dependent on their knowledge and experience of a range of different breeds at any given time. Progression through the levels is at the judge's discretion. Everyone learns at different speeds. The proposals include additional mandatory seminars. There is a new Critique Writing Seminar online via the Kennel Club Academy. This needs only be passed once. Those who are already existing CC judges will be exempt from this requirement, but with a strong recommendation that this is undertaken

JCF Level progression

Briefly the detail for each level is:

Entry Level - (currently showing interest or C List whom have not passed below criteria shown in Level 1 Judge description)

Before being able to judge at all, people will have to have undertaken basic training and to have demonstrated they have sufficient knowledge to judge a limited number of classes at limited and open shows.

Level 1 Judge - (currently C List who have passed below criteria)

From **1 January 2020** only those who have attained JCF Level 1 will be able to judge at KC licenced Limited and Open Shows, unless they are a previously approved CC judge or on a B list or above. (current Breed Club C Lists will be terminated as of 1st January 2020)

To attain Level 1 a judge will need to have:

1. A proven interest of a **minimum of 5 years** in one or more aspects of the breeding and exhibiting of pedigree dogs (including show administration/stewarding).
2. Undertaken 6 days of stewarding appointments.
3. Attended a Kennel Club Requirements of a Dog Show Judge (RDSJ) seminar and passed the exam.
4. Passed the Kennel Club Points of the Dog assessment.
5. Attended a Kennel Club Conformation and Movement seminar.
6. Passed the Kennel Club online Critique Writing Course.

A JCF Level 1 judge can only judge a limited number of classes and only up to open show level.

Level 2 Judge - (currently B List) -

To gain this level you will have attended a Breed Appreciation Day and passed the Multiple-choice Breed Standard Exam. You can then judge an unlimited number of classes of the breed concerned at Open and Limited shows and well as non-CC classes at Championship Shows.

Attendance at previous breed seminars with assessment passes will be able to be used to register at this level.

At this stage judges may choose whether they wish to progress towards CC status, and can progress at a speed that suits them.

Level 3 (awaiting final assessment) - (currently A3 List)

To achieve this level the judge will need to have:

1. Passed the 'Eye for a Dog' assessment (This only needs to be done once) and is being 'tweaked' so was not covered at the BEC day
2. Undertake three mentoring sessions within that breed and be 'signed off' by the three mentors.
3. Pass an observation whilst judging at a breed club show, supported entry show (all breed clubs must support a minimum of two of these per year from 1 January 2019) or non-CC classes at a Championship Show.
4. Have bred and or owned a minimum of three dogs (any breed) when they obtained their first entry in the KC Stud Book – save for exceptional circumstances. (This is a one-time qualification).
5. Attended the appropriate Field Trial event for gundog breeds or online German Shepherd Dog exam if appropriate
6. Ensure that you have passed a RDSJ exam within the past five years

Level 4 – CC Judge - (currently A2 or A1 List)

Judges may apply for JCF Level 4 status once they have passed the Breed Competence Assessment. Candidates will apply to be registered as a JCF Level 4 judge and subsequently be listed as eligible to award CCs in that breed. It will no longer be necessary to have an invitation to judge or complete a questionnaire before being considered to award CCs.

Existing A2 Kennel Club approved judges and established CC judges will transition to JCF Level 4.

JCF Level 4 judges will be eligible to judge AV classes and groups/BIS at open shows.

Level 5 – Group Judge

Once a judge has awarded CCs to 30% of the breeds in a group they may apply to become a JCF Level 5 judge (Group Judge).

JCF Level 5 judges can register as a JCF Level 2 judge for all breeds within that group without attendance at a Breed Appreciation Day although they are encouraged to do so.

Once a JCF Level 5 judge has awarded CCs to 75% of the breeds in that group the Judges Committee has discretion to award JCF Level 4 status to the judge for the remaining breeds in that group.

Level 6 – Best in Show Judge

Once a judge has judged three different groups they can apply to become a JCF Level 6 judge (BIS judge).

Level 7 – All-breeds Judge

There will be a small number of 'all breeds' judges. They will be approved to award CCs in all breeds recognised by the Kennel Club, and approved to judge all groups at general and group championship shows. They will have judged BIS, six of the seven groups and a significant number of breeds at CC level.

Mentoring

The Judges whom are approved for Mentoring will be able to Mentor Judges at the following which can be either

1. **GROUP MENTORING** - With no more than 3 candidate Judges to 1 Mentor and this route can only be used ONCE
2. **ONE TO ONE MENTORING** - Can be the 3 Mentoring sessions required BUT has to be **3 different MENTORS** (so, each occasion would be a different Mentor)
3. **SPECIAL AWARD CLASSES** - whereby the Judge is Mentored and openly discuss their Judging in an Open and Friendly, constructive manner.
4. **STUDENT JUDGES** - Whereby the **MENTOR** is Judging and the **MENTEE** is observing, again in an Open and Friendly, constructive manner. If any Dogs are gone over by the Mentee during the transition period (2019 - 2022) these dogs will NOT count towards numbers of dogs handled (ie if wishing to follow the A2 route).

MENTORS should be well established owner/breeder/exhibitor (current or past) that are able to discuss with the **MENTEE** the merits and demerits according to **BREED STANDARD** and not to preferred '**TYPE**'. All Mentees will have a questionnaire to submit after their Mentoring Session on how they felt their Mentoring Session went. There will be a form for the Mentor to return to the BEC and the KC on the outcome of the Mentoring Session. It is extremely important that anyone that is appointed as a Mentor is able to discuss openly and constructively in a manner whereby it is a two way conversation with the Mentee. Mentees will be informed on the day by the Mentor if they have passed that particular session and areas of improvement if required will be discussed openly with the Mentee, everything will be transparent. To date, the Pilot Schemes have been performing Mentoring Sessions and they have all been very successful, regardless of outcome for Mentee. Mentors will be given soft training guidelines to help them in their role going forward. Mentors can be current or, past Judges and do not have to have passed any exams (ie if they were awarding CC's before exams came in to play) and likewise if retired, would not have to sit the RDSJ every 5 years either.

OBSERVATION - This is required ONCE and must be at Level 3 to be observed at either a Breed Club Show, Club Supported Show, Championship Show with no CC's on offer for the Breed. General Open Shows can have Observation performed BUT only if it is a very good entry. An Observer CANNOT perform Observation on any candidate that they have previously Mentored. The Observer will be required to attend the show early along with the Judge to discuss together prior to the commencement of Judging which will also include the Observer to ask the Candidate to write a detailed critique on 1st and 2nd dog from specific classes of dogs judged. This is again, not a confidential exercise but an open exercise, Clubs will be required to provide an area where the Observer and Candidate can discuss quietly without being interrupted and if anyone does approach the Observer during this they must be able to politely tell said person to 'go away'. A returns form will be submitted to the JCF account and one to the BEC - Observers do not keep a copy.

An Observer can be **ANY LEVEL 4 JUDGE** who has previously given CC's in the Breed (does not have to be minimum of 4 times now) and can also be retired CC Judges.

BREED CLUBS will need to set their own 'meaningful entry number' which is in perspective to the Breed, ie a Breed with a large amount of dogs registered and shown should be higher amount than the rare vulnerable breeds.

BREED COMPETENCE ASSESSMENT - To be held by Kennel Club ONLY

Breed Clubs are required to assist with the Breed Competence Assessments which will be required by all Level 3 Judges to be taken to progress to Level 4 under the new JCF. Clubs will be required to provide 5 suitable dogs with ages ranging from Junior to Veteran, with dogs that are of good quality and dogs that are not quite so good or pet quality within this range. Breed Clubs will also be required to provide suitable Breed Specialist Judges (the KC will provide All Rounders Judges) as Breed Assessors. There will be a maximum of 10 candidates at any one Breed Competence Assessment. This will not be immediate as Judges will have to have progressed to this stage by the above methods. After 2 years being a Level 3 Judge, there will be an automatic alert to advise the Kennel Club that the Judge needs to go forward for the Breed Competence Assessment. All Breed Competence Assessments will be held at the Kennel Club Building in Stoneleigh (there may be a reciprocal agreement with the Scottish Kennel Club for Judges that reside in Scotland).

From January 2022, ALL Judges will be required to have a Licence to Judge and this will be at a cost of £26.00 for more than one breed and £10.00 for one Breed only, this is for ANY Judging appointment, so if you are a Breed Specialist in only one Breed, ie Smooth Collie and are asked at an Open Show to Judge Smooth Collies and Rough Collies, to accept this appointment you would have to pay £26.00 per year and not the £10.00 per year. The £10.00 per year fee is ONLY if you wish to Judge your own Breed excluding all other Judging.

From January 2024, All existing CC Judges will be require to take the RDSJ exam every 5 years. If you have been invited to award CC's in a new breed, you have to take the RDSJ prior to the Judging appointment. A RDSJ will be available to renew "on-Line" BUT only if you have taken the original with an approved KC Trainer.

Lastly, there is now a published list of ALL BEC's that has been added to the Kennel Club Website. If any Judge wishes to Judge other breeds, they will need to follow the Levels as shown above.

Cathy Howard – Breed Education Coordinator, Smooth Collie Club of Great Britain