

# **BREED STANDARD OF AN EXHIBITOR**

## **CHARACTERISTICS**

A pleasant intelligent person, helpful, considerate, attentive and of a sporting demeanour. Always willing to give advice and assistance to newcomers, or to others needing it. Attentive to the needs of the dogs being handled, and present each dog to its best advantage.

## **GENERAL APPEARANCE**

A neat, smart, fit looking individual, well-groomed, well shod and well-equipped, who moves freely both in and out of the ring.

## **TEMPERAMENT**

Calm, confident, unhurried and friendly.

## **HEAD**

Neither big nor pin headed. Skull broad to allow for plenty of brain power. Expression pleasant and smiling, regardless of judges' decisions, other exhibitors' actions and the dog's behaviour. Nose small so as to not be stuck into where it is not wanted.

## **EYES**

Sharp and bright Observant of other exhibitors location, judge's hand signals and the movement and position of all dogs in the ring.

## **MOUTH**

Usually best kept closed except to briefly answer judge's questions or to congratulate successful exhibitors. Teeth clean, white and presented in a smiling fashion at all times.

## **NECK**

Long enough to hold the head up proudly and flexible enough to turn the head as to observe everything that is happening in the ring. Should never be stuck out.

## **FOREQUARTERS**

Shoulders broad and able to shrug off unsporting comments from other exhibitors. Arms of sufficient length and strength to extend a handshake to the winners, keep a firm hold on the dog, collect any prize cards, and give a friendly pat to the dog all at the same time.

## **BODY**

Sufficiently slim as to not impede other exhibitors leaving the ring and to not completely block the judge's view of all the dogs behind.

## **HINDQUARTERS**

Well developed and strong so as to be able to move the dog in the ring at its optimum speed.

## **FEET**

Firmly on the ground as this is only a sport after all. To be kept out of the mouth at all times.

## **GAIT**

Free moving and graceful, moving in harmony with the dog's speed.

## **COAT**

Dress should be neat, clean and tidy, neither flamboyant nor immodest, but designed to allow free movement without distraction to any dog in the ring. Feet should be well shod in practical shoes to allow for easy movement.

### **COLOUR**

Should be chosen to complement the colour of the dog, or if several different coloured dogs are being handled, to at least not completely hide the outline of any dog, e.g. Wearing a long black skirt when showing a black dog.

### **SIZE**

Exhibitors may come in all sizes and shapes, the only limitation being ability to do justice to the dog when in the ring.

### **MAJOR FAULTS**

Dirty or scruffy appearance, grumpy, vicious or flustered temperament; swollen head; loud mouth, especially when used for insulting comments or bad language; unsporting behaviour; unkempt dress.

### **NOTE:**

The usual Kennel Club requirement that all males have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum has been dispensed with, in the interests of decorum and to avoid any sudden inspections with attendant violent reactions, while male exhibitors are attending dog shows