

Judge's Guidelines
Place score on front

Part I:	DOG / HANDLER APPEARANCE / ETIQUETTE (40 points possible)
DOG	
Overall Appearance	Coat and skin appears to be in good condition as can be determined from appearance and handler comments. Dog has been thoroughly brushed, bathed, free of mats and parasites. Healthy wt.
Feet and Toenails Properly Trimmed	Nail length is not as important as tips having been trimmed and/or filed. Feet are trimmed in correct manner for breed, though an attempt is more important than finesse. Consider the age of the exhibitor.
Ears Clean and Properly Trimmed.	Clean, free of mites, odor, and dirt build-up. Okay if the handler states that the dog is being treated. Ears are trimmed in correct manner for breed, an attempt is more important than finesse.
Teeth Clean	Tarter build-up should be penalized. Missing, broken, yellowed, or misaligned teeth shall not be considered.
HANDLER:	
Properly Dressed and Groomed	Handler's outfit follows 4-H dress code, and is neat and business-like without detracting from dog. Hair is kept out of face. Shoes are appropriate for the breed's gaiting speed.
Courteous , Observes Ring Etiquette	The use of bait and toys is quiet and proper. Handler picks up anything they drop, and does not talk to other exhibitors except when necessary. Is polite to the judge, stewards, and other exhibitors.
Proper Equipment & Use	Collar and leash used properly and neatly. No jerking, corrections or forceful use.
Part II:	KNOWLEDGE (5 points possible)
5 knowledge Questions:	Ask appropriate questions for each category designated on the front according to age and experience level. Check with the superintendent with questions beforehand.
Part III:	HANDLING SKILLS (55 points possible)
Individual Judging	
Exam Stack	Exam; Stacked as close to breed standard as conformation allows. Handler makes best effort to keep dog stacked even if it is not cooperating.
Individual Exam, and Showing Bite	Judge all components of the exam: Proper presentation of profile, head, front, rear, timing, and control for breed. Members are to show the dog's bite, teeth, <i>or</i> mouth according to breed standard, at the judge's request. Handler and repositions feet that the dog or judge moves. Presents in a quiet, efficient way that does not detract from the dog. In case of a shy dog, see bottom of sheet.*
Individual Gaiting	Shows proper gait presentation and speed for front, rear, and side movement.
Ring Patterns	Does pattern as requested. Lines up with judge when moving toward or away from them. Moves in a straight line. Does not block judge's view more than is necessary. Uses courtesy turns appropriately. Uses efficiency of movement with proper, smooth hand changes if needed. Presents dog at the end of the pattern.
Group Judging	
Group Gaiting	Does not crowd others. Gaits dog at proper speed for their breed. Judge should be on the inside of the circle. Handler will keep dog on their left side (the inside of the circle) with no hand changes. Uses proper gait techniques and timing. Consideration for small dog to cut the circle if needed.
Presentation in line up, Line Spacing	Does not crowd other handlers or disturb other dogs. Does not interfere with other handlers stacking space in line. Refrains from blocking others or the area where individual patterns are being judged. Does not give the dog harsh or excessively loud commands, or treat dog with undue severity. Timing; using a combination of a "relaxed position" when judge is going over other handler's exams/pattern, to a variety of stacks when a handler goes to the end of the line.
Stacking in line	Uses a variety of proper stacking poses in-line. Ready to show profiles, fronts and rears.
Overall Presentation, Timing, Poise	Demonstrates confidence in handling ability, ties all aspects of their time in the ring together neatly and seamlessly. Handler anticipates and is prepared for the judges movements. Handler knows when to relax and when to have dog stacked. Handler attempts to "sell" their dog to the judge with an economy of efficient movement. Shows experience in the ring and uses proper timing and poise positioning their dog and themselves to their best advantage maintaining good sportsmanship. Shows evidence of high skill in all the handler skill areas.

- This is a class judged on the "**Handlers' Abilities** - conformation of the dog is not to be considered.
- All exhibitors perform the same skills in every group of a class. Large classes should be divided into smaller groups.
- Brief blocking movements are allowed in order to enhance a smooth, accurate, and efficient presentation of the dog.
- A dog that is too shy for examination; the handler may personally show the required parts (teeth, ears, feet). If the judge cannot place their hands on the dog to check for mats and cleanliness, the handler is to receive a deduction in Overall Appearance and Exam. A dog may be asked to leave the ring if unsafe or aggressive. Please consult with superintendent.

"Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of non-compliance may be reported through your local extension office."

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