

**DOGS
VICTORIA
JUDGES
TRAINING
PROGRAM
2025**

**TRAINEE
MANUAL**

Dogs Victoria Trainee Judges' Manual 2025

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CONFORMATION JUDGES TRAINING COMPLETE PROGRAM

Can anyone be a conformation dog judge? Becoming a dog judge requires more than just membership of Dogs Australia. People need experience with dogs. They need to breed and show; they need to understand the form and function of dog breeds; and they need to understand the structure of dogs and their mechanics.

People interested in dog conformation judging need to consider what is suitable for them. Are they interested in judging only their breed, or the many breeds in each group or each of the groups? Each of the various 7 groups of dogs, as classified in Australia, are sets of dogs with many similar functions and are often clearly differentiated in form and function. Moving beyond a person's own breed or group often requires a different mindset and new knowledge. Judging a Terrier is not the same as judging a Gundog. This needs to be understood.

Dog judging requires clear, consistent, and efficient decision-making skills. Without knowledge and expertise this becomes very difficult. Dog judging requires those involved to listen to others, take constructive feedback, accept weaknesses and differences as well as recognising strengths. Successful judges and trainees are required to constantly attend to learning new knowledge, not running with the 'obvious', participating in shows and showing and constantly revising.

The Conformation Judges Training Program is a voluntary, self-learning program for training Dogs Australia members, assisted by provision of breed lectures, seminars, general lectures, field days and practical judging. This requires attendance and participation to be effective. The program means more than just attendance. It also requires reading, talking, watching and observation, discussion, and visits to kennels.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF ASPIRING AND TRAINEE JUDGES

1. Acquire and share knowledge – reading, searching, observing, questioning discussing and debating.
2. Participate: in lectures, seminars, at dog shows
3. Be active: in practising judging, writing critiques, searching opinions and information about breeds, observing judging and dogs at shows, reading, discussing, listening, and providing and accepting feedback.
4. Be a role model: be respectful and act in a sportsman-like manner at all times and in all situations.

2025 Conformation Judges Committee

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APPLICATION AND PROGRAM DATES 2025

ASPIRING THEORY EXAMINATION APPLICATIONS

Open Monday 9th June 2025 **Close** 4pm Monday 16th June 2025

SUBGROUP THREE THEORY EXAMINATION APPLICATIONS

Open Monday 10th March 2025 **Close** at 4pm Monday 17th March 2025

SUBGROUP FOUR THEORY EXAMINATIONS APPLICATIONS

Open Monday 9th June 2025 **Close** 4pm Monday 16th June 2025

TRAINEE APPLICATIONS **MUST** BE CHECKED BY **YOUR GROUP LEADER** BEFORE
APPLYING FOR A PRACTICAL EXAM

THEORY EXAM DATES 2025

ASPIRING THEORY Exams - **Wednesday 2nd July 2025**

SUBGROUP THREE THEORY Exam – **Wednesday 9th April 2025**

SUBGROUP FOUR THEORY Exam - **Wednesday 2nd July 2025**

All Groups & Single Breed Practical Assessments. Applications & Closing Dates 2025

OPEN Monday 7th July 2025
Closing at 4pm on Monday 14th July 2025

Aspiring Practical Assessments: DateTBA

Breed & Group Practical Assessments Dates Conducted at Dogs Victoria Exhibition Centre - Bulla

Practical Dates: 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th & 17th August 2025
Testing nights/days for each of the 7 groups to be confirmed.

TRAINEE & ASPIRING PROGRAM 2026 APPLICATIONS

2026 CJC TRAINEE & ASPIRING PROGRAM CLOSING DATES.

- Applications lodged before 4pm Monday 15th December 2025 – fee TBA
- Applications lodged between Tuesday 16th December 2025 and 4pm Friday 26th December 2025 – fee TBA
- Applications lodged between Saturday 27th December 2024 and 4pm Monday 5th January 2026 – fee TBA

- **Applications received after Monday 5th January 2026 will be returned unprocessed**

If a Trainee/Aspirant is applying for special provision in the theory/practical exams, you **MUST** include the form and your documentation with the Trainee & Aspiring Program Application at the start of every year.

Trainees wishing to enter the 2026 program are reminded of the following Regulations.

Dogs Victoria Regulation:

7.13 JUDGES TRAINING SCHEME

- 7.13.1 In order to demonstrate an ongoing commitment to dog showing, all current trainee judges in the Conformation Judges Training Program will be required to either:
- 7.13.1 a) be member of the committee of an All Breeds or Group club; **or**
 - 7.13.1 b) complete six ring stewarding appointments at championship shows **or**
 - 7.13.1 c) be an active member of dogs Victoria Management Committee or a Dogs Victoria Subcommittee

DOGS AUSTRALIA Regulation:

4.1.1.7 in the two years prior to enrolling, have successfully completed and have demonstrated a history of ongoing commitment to dog showing through the various aspect of the sport such as Show Management and other aspects of Affiliate and Show Administration. **This commitment is to continue for the duration of training.**

Please note: This includes Show Managing. Committee Member of an All Breeds Club, Group Club, or DV Sub Committee. Please check with Cathy Camac if you are involved in another aspect of show/club/DV administration which you think may apply here.

ASPIRIANTS: The required six (6) stewarding appointments must be completed before or whilst enrolled as an Aspirant Judge.

They **MUST** be completed prior to the closing of Theory Exam applications 4pm Monday 16th June 2025.

The six stewarding appointments and application form must be checked by the Aspiring Group Leader before being sent to the Dogs Victoria Office.

Links to Trainee Information and Forms

It is recommended that Aspirants and Trainees check these pages on a regular basis as it is the best way to notify of changes and/or updates.

Enquiries to Group Leaders or the Chairperson are welcomed if Aspirants or Trainees require assistance with Regulation clarifications or any other facets of the Judges Training Program.

DOGS AUSTRALIA LINKS

- [Dogs Australia Breed Standards](#)
- [Dogs Australia Glossary of Canine Terms](#)
- [Dogs Australia Regulations Part 2 Judges](#)
- [Dogs Australia Regulation Part 3 Judges Training & Examination Scheme](#)
- [Dogs Australia Regulation Part 5 Conformation Show](#)
- [Dogs Australia National Judge's Code of Practice](#)
- [Dogs Australia Judges Guidelines](#)
- [Ramped breeds](#) (Listing last updated 31/07/2024)

DOGS VICTORIA LINKS

- [Dogs Victoria.org.au](#)
- [VCA Rules & Regulations](#)
- [Code of conduct for members social media.pdf](#)
- [Conformation Trainee Judges Program](#)
- [Lecture Dates for 2025](#) (updated 28/11/24)
- [Dogs Victoria Accredited Assessors](#) (Updated 15/11/24)

Forms

- [Stewarding Record Card](#) (amended 24/08/2023)
- [Lecture Attendance Record](#) (amended 15/01/2024)
- [Trainee Judging Record](#) (amended 30/11/2023)
- [Intensive Critique & Accredited Assessor Observation Form](#) (amended 15/01/2024)
- [Special Provision Application Form 2025](#) (amended 19/11/2024)

PART 7 Dogs Victoria REGULATIONS – CONFORMATION

7.14 RESERVED PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE (15/11/22)

Judge a minimum of 50 dogs and complete a minimum 15 dogs intensive critique from the relevant group. A maximum of one intensive critique per breed (**NOT VARIETY**) within the relevant group can be submitted.

7.14.1 Intensive Critiques

- (a) All intensive critiques require the physical examination by the trainee in the presence of a licenced ANKC Accredited Assessor judge, who is not a trainee judge currently enrolled in the scheme. The Conformation Judges Committee may approve mentors additional to ANKC Accredited Assessors to sign intensive critiques forms.
- (b) The intensive critique form **MUST** be completed, discussed, and countersigned by the trainee and licenced ANKC Accredited Assessor judge on the day.
- (c) A minimum of **five** licenced ANKC Accredited Assessors must sign the required 15 dogs intensive critiques and a maximum of **three** intensive critiques per Accredited Assessor.
- (d) Approved Distance Trainees must complete the minimum 15 dogs intensive critiques.

7.14.2 Intensive Critiques Speciality

- (a) Trainee judges are to attend a minimum of one breed, multi breed or group specialty show, for their group within the duration of the scheme.
- (b) Complete a minimum of one written intensive critique at such “specialty show” as a part of the required 15 dogs intensive critiques (7.14).

7.14.3 Dogs Judged

Judge a minimum of 50 dogs (7.13.2). This must include the hands-on experience of the physical examination, gaiting and the (physical or written) placing of dogs at: open shows, sweepstakes, members competitions, mini group/breed classes or field days. The Trainee Judging Record Form on the day must be completed and signed.

7.14.4 Practical Exam Resit

Should a trainee not achieve a pass result in a practical examination, then to qualify to take a further group practical examination a trainee judge must judge an additional 25 dogs and examine and critique an additional seven dogs intensive critiques, in accordance with 7.14, submit the approved enrolment form accompanied by the requirements of this clause. They may then attempt the next available annual practical examination.

2025 CJC INTENSIVE CRITIQUES - PROCEDURE

15 CJC Intensive Critiques are required over 2 years or 7 CJC Intensive Critiques for a practical exam resit. CJC encourage trainees to use CJC Intensive Critiques as a learning tool.

NEW 2025 PROCEDURE

1. ACCREDITED ASSESSOR'S OBSERVATION FORM

- An Accredited Assessor's Observation Form **MUST** be completed with **EVERY** Intensive Critique.

2. CJC INTENSIVE CRITIQUES

- From January 1st, 2025, Trainees must forward their **CJC Intensive Critiques** and **Accredited Assessor's Observation Form (3 pages total)** to the Group Leader once each is completed. **If an AA Observation Form is not submitted with your CJC Intensive Critique it will not be accepted by your Group Leader.**
- **15 CJC Intensive Critiques** must be submitted with an application for a Practical Test, NOT the **Accredited Assessor's Observation Forms**. Applications goes to the group leader for checking then to the DV office.
- From January 1st, 2025, an Accredited Assessor can sign off a critique on their own dog.

To sit a Practical Exam in 2025:

1. Trainees **MUST** submit 15 CJC Intensive Critique Forms, 1 (one) Specialty Critique **MUST** be included.
2. Resit Trainees **MUST** submit 7 CJC Intensive Critique Forms.

These critiques can be completed throughout Australia but **MUST** be on the current **CJC Intensive Critique form**.

Only a Dogs Australia Accredited Assessor (AA) can sign off an CJC Intensive Critique.

15 (different) single breed (**NOT VARIETY**) CJC Intensive Critiques are required to a sit a practical exam. (of which 1 (one) Specialty Critique **MUST** be included in the 15 to sit a practical assessment).

However, you can do as many as you wish and submit your best 15 single breed CJC Intensive Critiques with your practical exam application.

These CJC Intensive Critiques serve as mini practical exams, the more you complete the better prepared you will be for your real practical exam.

*****Trainees MUST book a time and date with your Accredited Assessor before the event*****

All CJC Intensive Critiques which are done from 1st January 2024 MUST be on the new & current Intensive Critique form

ALL TRAINEES PLEASE NOTE

The Dogs Victoria Judges Training lecture program is conducted over a two year period, with subgroup theory exams held over those two years.

The average result over the four module theory exams MUST be at least 75 percent.

These results do not need to be obtained during a consecutive two (2) year period.

The final result (average of the four modules) is held for life, in accordance with Dogs Australia Reg 9.8.

RULES FOR CONDUCTING TRAINEE CLASSES/SWEEPSTAKES AT SHOWS

Dogs Australia Regulation 6.1.2 Module 2. Practical Experience

To be able to count the 50 'dogs judged' for an application to sit a Practical Exam, there **MUST** be **only one (1) Trainee Judge in the ring** and the exhibits **MUST** be physically placed, discussed and signed off by an Accredited Assessor ONLY.

There **MUST** be a **MINIMUM OF 5 DOGS AND MAXIMUM OF 10 DOGS** in any Trainee Sweepstakes Class.

There will be a written record kept by the Trainee Judge of the Date, Fixture and number of dogs and breeds judged. The Trainee Judge's Judging Record Card/Sheet must be signed by the Accredited Assessor after a discussion on the dogs and the number of dogs/breeds have been recorded. (Not by a Show official)

Approval **MUST** be obtained from the Affiliate conducting the Show.

ZOOM LECTURE PROTOCOLS

- There is to be no recording of lectures.
- You should be situated privately in a room by yourself.
- **You MUST be seen** (not the top of your head or ceiling) by your Group Leader.
- It is necessary for both **Trainee** and Group Leader to have **Attendance Records** to cross-check the information should there be a dispute.
- Comments by the group leaders and trainees are **NOT** to be disclosed to others outside of the lecture.
- Electronic devices are not to be used except for the device used to participate in the zoom lecture.

LIST OF COMPETENCIES

Level 1 Aspiring Judges Competencies

DEMONSTRATE THE ABILITY TO:

1. Talk in appropriate canine terminology.
2. Understand anatomical construction relevant to each breed.
3. Approach a dog correctly and appropriately for the breed.
4. Properly handle a dog in a purposeful manner.
5. Assess all parts of the dog.
6. Mouth a dog correctly.
7. Control, organise and use the judging ring effectively.
8. Have a practical knowledge of stewarding.
9. Understand and apply the Rules and Regulations relevant to dog judging.

Level 2 Trainee Judges Competencies

DEMONSTRATE THE ABILITY TO:

10. Interpret a breed standard.
11. Correctly describe breed characteristics.
12. Consistently recognise correct breed type.
13. Evaluate correct balance for each breed and how this relates to breed function.
14. Recognise balance as it relates to gait/movement of a particular breed.
15. Recognise and assess the differences between breeds and/or exhibits.
16. Recognise and assess specific breed gait/movement.
17. Recognise correct coats, correct coat texture and correct coat preparation.
18. Make decisions in an effective way and in an efficient time frame.
19. Correctly examine and critique using breed specific language.
20. Justify placings in both breed and Group Judging.

CONDUCT WITHIN THE PROGRAM

It is the responsibility of all Aspiring and Trainee Judges to always behave with decorum and in a respectful manner.

Any information pertaining to the merits, or otherwise, of dogs is to remain confidential within the Program.

Any breach of conduct will be sent to CJC and/or Management Committee for investigation and possible disciplinary action.

DOGS VICTORIA SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

- Abide by Dogs Victoria Rules & Regulations
- Be reasonable and respectful – do not post malicious, misleading, or unfair content in relation to Dogs Victoria or its affiliates, Dogs Victoria staff, Dogs Victoria members or members of other Dogs Australia affiliated bodies or indeed of members' dogs.
- Be accurate – any comment posted as fact should be able to be substantiated.
- Act in manner that is consistent with good community expectations.

The same values that apply in the real world also apply in the virtual world and in social media exchanges.

Despite the seemingly unregulated nature of social media, the law is applicable to online content. Postings online (and similarly in email or text messages) are subject to the law in areas such as defamation, racial discrimination, intimidation, and bullying.

Judges' Code of Practice and Conduct

1. A Judge shall act with professional decorum at all times.
2. A Judge shall give every exhibit and exhibitor fair and equal opportunity in each and every class.
3. A Judge shall act in a polite manner whilst carrying out each judging assignment.
4. A Judge shall present himself/herself in attire that is acceptable, appropriate, and comfortable for each judging assignment. Footwear appropriate to the discipline shall be worn. **(10/18)**
5. A Judge is required to be punctual in availability to fulfil their judging assignment.
6. If in the judging procedures an exhibit displays an obvious physical impediment or is unable to be handled or can be regarded as savage or vicious the exhibit should be excused from the competition, in accordance with the Dogs Australia Member Body rules/regulations.
7. A Judge shall not enter or exhibit any dog at any Conformation Show at which he or she is appointed to judge.
8. Should an exhibitor offer information to the Judge that may be regarded as designed to influence the Judge, the Judge shall excuse the exhibitor and their exhibit from competition and report the incident in accordance with the Dogs Australia Member Body rules/regulations.
9. Should a Judge be approached to favour or disfavour a particular exhibit the matter is to be reported to the Administrator of the Dogs Australia Member Body.
10. Should a Judge be approached with an inducement and/or bribe to advantage or disadvantage an exhibit the Judge is to report the matter in writing to the Administrator of the Dogs Australia Member Body.
11. A Judge shall not solicit a judging appointment.
12. A Judge shall not solicit or seek entry of any particular dog or dogs.
13. A Judge shall not allow entries for a Conformation Show at which that person is judging to be received at the Judge's address.
14. A Judge shall complete all the requirements of the judging contract promptly. Any verbal acceptance of an assignment by a Judge shall be subject to the receipt of the contract within fourteen (14) days.

15. At the time of completing a contract the Judge shall inform the inviting body of any disability or limitation that could restrict carrying out in full the reasonable handling of all exhibits to be judged.
16. A Judge must not duplicate assignments in the same breeds and or group within a minimum of 3 months of each other and within a minimum of 200 kilometres at Championship Shows. **(10/97), (02/15), (10/15)**. Note: This will not apply to Neuter only shows. **(Note added 02/20)**
17. A Judge shall honour each contract and will not be free to accept an alternative contract that will affect his or her availability to fulfil the original contract except with the written dispensation of the contracting Club. **(05/98)**
18. Accommodation provided to the Judge to fulfil an assignment is for the Judge only except where prior mutual agreement has been reached with the sponsoring body for variation.
19. A Judge shall be responsible for the cost of all personal telephone calls, alcoholic beverages and any personal laundering except where mutual agreement has been reached with the sponsoring body at the time the contract is accepted.
20. A Judge who withdraws from any contracted appointment for any reason shall not be permitted to judge at any other canine event wherever held on any date that would prevent him/her from attending the originally contracted event, unless dispensation has been granted in accordance with Clause 17. **(05/98)**
21. Judges must not smoke nor drink alcohol in the ring.
22. Judges shall not criticise by act or word the work of other judges, nor offer criticism of any previously judged dog(s) to anyone including other officiating judges during the course of the show. Except for authorised ringside mentoring.
23. All judges must judge exhibits in accordance with their relevant Dogs Australia breed standard. **(10/16)**

DOGS AUSTRALIA GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES

PRIOR TO THE SHOW

Assignments

Do not solicit or promote assignments for yourself.

Invitations

Clubs should send you written invitations and contracts for assignments.

Contracts should clearly specify the breeds and/or groups you are being asked to judge.

It is your responsibility to acknowledge judging invitations promptly. Careful record keeping and prompt written response to invitations helps eliminate unnecessary confusion and conflict for both judges and show-giving clubs. Take your copy of the original contract to the show.

Travel Between Assignments

In consideration of the possibility of delays, you should not accept assignments on consecutive days where more than a few hours travel by ground transportation is involved. When you accept an invitation, you are committing yourself to the show-giving club for your entire assignment as scheduled.

Expenses

When you accept an invitation, clearly inform club officials in your contract what your fee is and what your expenses will likely be. The more specifics you include in the contract, the less potential for misunderstanding there will be. When you sign a contract, you and the club are responsible.

Attending Shows

If you attend shows in the area before events you are to judge, for the benefit of perception, it is recommended that you do not watch the breeds you are scheduled to judge. You can combine exhibiting and judging without a problem if you are prudent as to how and when you exhibit. If you choose to exhibit, you should expect to be subject to scrutiny.

Social Functions

It is proper to attend a function given by the host club. You have the option of attending club dinners and other social functions where exhibitors will be present. Take care to avoid even the appearance of impropriety with any exhibitor who might appear in your ring. You may occasionally find that you will have to tactfully change the subject or excuse yourself from a conversation that involves breeds or exhibitors whom you are likely to judge.

'Grey areas'

When faced with such a dilemma, ask yourself whether the situation, however innocent, projects an outward appearance of impropriety. A good rule of thumb is: If you have concerns about whether something is inappropriate, you probably should avoid the situation.

Fitness to Judge

It is essential that a dog show judge be physically capable of performing the functions necessary to properly judge dogs. You must have:

- The manoeuvrability to negotiate a ring both indoors and outdoors, with or without mechanical assistance, e.g., a wheelchair, crutches, or a cane.
- The flexibility to examine all parts of a dog's anatomy where each breed is typically presented (i.e., on the ground, or on a table).
- The dexterity to move at a sufficient speed to adhere to the schedule of the show-giving club.
- The capability to remain focused on task and control the ring for the duration of the assignment.
- Normal vision (correctable by eyeglasses or contact lenses).

Illness

Judges are expected to be physically fit and capable of completing their contracted assignment. If you learn that you will not be able to fulfil an assignment because of illness or other serious occurrence, immediately notify the Show Secretary by telephone, e-mail, or fax.

Always travel with contact information. If you are delayed on route to a show, immediately make every effort to contact the Show Secretary or other club official.

Be on Time

Allow at least one-half hour to report to the Show Secretary or Chief Steward prior to the show.

During your judging assignment

Mobile Phones and other electronic devices must be turned off while judging. Telephone calls should never be made or received by the judge while in the ring.

Proper Attire

Judges should wear professional attire suitable for the job at hand.

Gentlemen should wear coats and ties (weather permitting), and ladies should dress accordingly. Ties, scarves, hats, vests, jewellery, or anything else that may dangle into the dogs' line of vision should be secured away from proximity to the dogs. Above all, avoid inappropriate, conspicuous, or outlandish dress.

Women should not wear skirts that are too short or too cumbersome, and they should avoid noisy, dangling jewellery.

In the judging Ring

You have the responsibility to be thoughtful and considerate as you judge according to all Dogs Australia Rules, Policies and Guidelines.

Be as systematic in your ring procedure from dog to dog and class to class as conditions permit but do take the time to encourage apparent newcomers and novices.

Avoid making inappropriate comments to exhibitors in or out of the ring.

Be polite, but generally limit your conversation with exhibitors to instructions on positioning or gaiting the dogs.

Check the Ring

Before starting to judge, quickly inspect the ring you have been assigned.

Determine how you intend to use the ring and look for unsafe conditions, whether it is a loose mat or a depression in the grass.

Always double check the security of the legs on the examination table and its stability.

When outdoors, consider how to best take advantage of shade or shelter in order to provide the most comfort for the dogs and the exhibitors.

Do not direct dogs or exhibitors to stand in the elements for any longer than is absolutely necessary.

Speed of Judging

Never delay your judging at the request of an exhibitor.

A new breed judge is expected to be capable of judging a minimum of 30 dogs an hour, and experienced judges at least 35 dogs an hour.

It would be unreasonable to expect a Judge to judge more than 45 dogs per hour.

Develop a consistent, methodical, efficient ring procedure that will help you maintain the proper pace.

Individual Examination of Dogs

Examine every dog in the same objective, breed-specific manner even if a poor specimen may clearly be out of the ribbons.

Approach dogs calmly.

Examine each with a gentle but sure touch and no sudden, surprising moves.

Examine table breeds on the table only.

To re-examine them, have them put back on the table.

A thorough and complete breed-specific examination does not include excessive touching beyond feeling for breed-specific characteristics and specific points of reference.

Touch and examine only as much as is necessary to complete a thorough, breed-specific examination, but touch no more. Always judge dogs solely based on their condition and as they are presented in the ring on the day of the show.

Give no consideration to what a dog's quality or condition could be at some future time.

Avoid excessive rearranging of a dog's coat, whistling, gesturing, or baiting.

However, do not hesitate to feel for breed specific traits or reference points to determine actual structure especially beneath a highly groomed coat.

Know and utilise the breed Standard effective on the date of judging.

Be systematic in your ring procedure, but do not be afraid to make adjustments when conditions warrant it.

Make all your instructions to exhibitors absolutely clear.

Line up the dogs first, second, third, in front of the markers before marking the judge's book or handing out the ribbons.

As a judge, you may ask your steward to mark your judge's book, but you are ultimately responsible for the correctness of the entries.

At the conclusion of judging

Prior to leaving the showground, check with the Secretary to ensure that all your paperwork is in order.

When settling your expenses ensure that the club is not left to pay hotel/motel bills for phone calls, alcohol or meals that were not authorised by the club.

HOW TO CRITIQUE

- Make it simple.
- Make it factual.
- Don't say what you want but what the dog has.
- Say it when you see it.
- Make it systematic.
- Take an overall impression first, then start with the head, and work down through the body. Finish with fore and aft movement, side gait and then look at the overall impression again.

GENERAL CRITIQUING FORMAT

- Age and gender
- Type
- Substance, bone, proportions
- Head, expression, and mouth
- Neck and forequarters
- Body
- Hindquarters and tail
- Movement
- Coat

DETAILED CRITIQUING FORMAT

- Age, sex
- Comment on type and carriage (breed specific)
- Size, substance, bone, proportions
- Head, skull, stop, muzzle, cheek (Head form)
- Ears, eyes, lips, pigment, bite, and teeth
- Neck, throat, withers, topline, underline, ribbing and forechest
- Fore and hind quarters with angulation
- Pasterns, hocks, and feet
- Coat, colour, and markings
- Tail length, substance and set. Tail carriage (moving and standing)
- Movement fore and aft, side movement (Remember the outside and inside principles)
- Temperament and character

ASPIRING

LEADER

Julie Keenan

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All lectures will be zoom meetings, **lectures to commence at 7:30pm SHARP.**

Aspirants arriving later than 7:35pm or consistently late, will not be credited with attendance!

All Aspirants **MUST** participate and be able to be viewed by the group leader **throughout the entire lecture to be accredited with attendance.**

ALL LECTURES and the two 'Hands On Nights' ARE COMPULSORY

*****Tuesday 28th January 2025** - Introduction Night is a **MUST** for ALL Trainees and Aspirants –
Held at Bulla Exhibition Dog Centre 7:30pm.

Tuesday 4th February – Introduction, Interpreting Standards and Study Techniques

Tuesday 11th February – Critiquing and Glossary of Terms

Tuesday 25th February – Canine Anatomy

Tuesday 4th March– Gait and Movement

Tuesday 11th March – Ethics and Responsibilities/Rules & Regs

Tuesday 18th March – Ringcraft Theory

Tuesday 6th May – Ringcraft Practical & Hands on (**Bulla Exhibition Centre**)

Tuesday 13th May – Ringcraft Practical & Hands On (**Bulla Exhibition Centre**)

All lectures to commence at 7:30pm SHARP

Aspirants arriving later than 7:35pm or consistently late, will not be credited with attendance.

GROUP 1 TOYS

LEADER

Jacqui Weekes

Mobile: 0432 722 223

jacs44@mail.com

All lectures will be zoom meetings, **lectures to commence at 7:30pm SHARP.**

Trainees arriving later than 7:35pm or consistently late, will not be credited with attendance!

All trainees **MUST** participate and be able to be viewed by the group leader **throughout the entire lecture to be accredited with attendance.**

Trainees are to attend all the below listed Sub Group 3 & 4 Breed Lectures as they are all part of the lecture series.

*****Tuesday 28th January 2025 - Introduction Night is a **MUST** for ALL Trainees and Aspirants –
Held at Bulla Exhibition Dog Centre 7:30pm.**

SUB GROUP THREE

Thursday 23rd January – Toy Introduction and Affenpinscher

Thursday 30th January – Griffon Bruxellois

Thursday 6th February – Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

Thursday 13th February – Papillon

Thursday 20th February – King Charles Spaniel

Wednesday 26th February – Pug

Thursday 6th March – Japanese Chin

Thursday 20th March – **Field Night** Sub Group 3 - Bulla Exhibition Centre

Thursday 27th March – **Revision Night** - Sub Group 3

Sub Group 3: Theory exam applications open **Monday 10th March CLOSE 4pm Monday 17th March 2025**

Sub Group 3: Theory Exam **Wednesday 9th April 2025** - Bulla Exhibition Centre

SUB GROUP FOUR

Wednesday 23rd April – Australian Silky Terrier

Thursday 1st May – Yorkshire Terrier

Thursday 8th May – Biewer Terrier

Thursday 15th May – Pomeranian

Thursday 22nd May – Russian Toy Terrier

Thursday 29th May - Pekingese

Thursday 5th June – Tibetan Spaniel

Saturday 7th June – **Field Day - Toy Dog Club Champ Show** - Bulla Exhibition Centre

Thursday 25th June – **Revision Night** – Sub Group 4

Please Note: It is compulsory to attend and participate in at least ONE (1) of the above Field Day(s) scheduled for Sub Group THREE & FOUR to be eligible to apply for a Practical Exam.

Sub Group 4: Theory exam applications open **Monday 9th June – CLOSE 4pm Monday 16th June 2025.**

Sub Group 4: Theory exam **Wednesday 2nd July 2025** - Bulla Exhibition Centre

***All licensed and Trainee Judges are welcome to contact the coordinator and attend any of these lectures. All lectures to commence at 7:30pm SHARP.
Trainees arriving later than 7:35pm or consistently late, will not be credited with attendance.***

GROUP 2 TERRIERS

LEADER

Glenys Alexander
Mobile: 0423 403 205

glenalexander972@gmail.com

All lectures will be zoom meetings, **lectures to commence at 7:30pm SHARP.**

Trainees arriving later than 7:35pm or consistently late, will not be credited with attendance!

All trainees **MUST** participate and be able to be viewed by the group leader **throughout the entire lecture to be accredited with attendance.**

Trainees are to attend all the below listed Sub Group 3 & 4 Breed Lectures as they are all part of the lecture series.

*****Tuesday 28th January 2025 - Introduction Night is a **MUST** for ALL Trainees and Aspirants –
Held at Bulla Exhibition Dog Centre 7:30pm.**

SUB GROUP THREE

Wednesday 22nd January – Introduction to Terriers - Sub Group Three

Wednesday 29th January – Australian Terrier

Wednesday 5th February – Cairn Terrier

Wednesday 12th February – West Highland White Terrier

Wednesday 19th February – Scottish Terrier

Wednesday 26th February – Sealyham Terrier & Skye Terrier

Wednesday 5th March – Norfolk Terrier & Norwich Terrier

Wednesday 12th March – **Revision Night** – Sub Group 3

Sub Group 3: Theory exam applications open **Monday 10th March CLOSE 4pm Monday 17th March 2025**

Sub Group 3: Theory Exam **Wednesday 9th April 2025** - Bulla Exhibition Centre

SUB GROUP FOUR

Wednesday 30th April – Bedlington Terriers

Wednesday 7th May – Dandie Dinmont Terrier

Wednesday 14th May – Glen of Imaal Terrier & Cesky Terrier

Wednesday 21st May – Bull Terrier & Bull Terrier (Miniature)

Wednesday 28th May – American Stafford Terrier

Wednesday 4th June – Staffordshire Bull Terrier

Saturday 7th June – ***Field Day*** – ‘Terrier Weekend’ - KCC Park

Sunday 8th June – ***Field Day*** – ‘Terrier Weekend’ – KCC Park

Monday 9th June – ***Field Day*** – ‘Terrier Weekend’ - KCC Park

Wednesday 11^h June – **Revision Night** - Sub Group 4

Please Note: It is compulsory to attend and participate in at least ONE (1) of the above Field Day (s) scheduled for Sub Group THREE & FOUR to be eligible to apply for a Practical Exam.

Sub Group 4: Theory exam applications open **Monday 9th June – CLOSE 4pm Monday 16th June 2025.**

Sub Group 4: Theory exam **Wednesday 2nd July 2025** - Bulla Exhibition Centre

All licensed and Trainee Judges are welcome to contact the coordinator and attend any of these lectures. All lectures to commence at 7:30pm SHARP.

Trainees arriving later than 7:35pm or consistently late, will not be credited with attendance.

GROUP 3 GUNDOGS

LEADER

Stephanie Rickard

Mobile: 0402 318 638

srickard4@bigpond.com

All lectures will be zoom meetings, **lectures to commence at 7:30pm SHARP.**

Trainees arriving later than 7:35pm or consistently late, will not be credited with attendance!

All trainees **MUST** participate and be able to be viewed by the group leader **throughout the entire lecture to be accredited with attendance.**

Trainees are to attend all the below listed Sub Group 3 & 4 Breed Lectures, as they are all part of the lecture series.

*****Tuesday 28th January 2025 - Introduction Night is a **MUST** for ALL Trainees and Aspirants.**

Held at Bulla Exhibition Dog Centre 7:30pm.

SUB GROUP FOUR – RETRIEVERS (to be sat on the night of the Sub Group 3 Exams)

Tuesday 4th February – Introduction & Curly Coated Retriever

Tuesday 11th February – Labrador Retriever

Tuesday 18th February – Chesapeake Bay Retriever & Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever

Tuesday 25th February – Lagotto Romagnolo

Tuesday 4th March – Golden Retriever

Tuesday 11th March – Flat Coated Retriever

Tuesday 18th March – Spanish Water Dog & Murray River Retriever

Tuesday 25th March – **Revision Night** – Sub Group 4

Tuesday 1st April – **Sub Group 4 Field Night** - Bulla Exhibition Centre

Sub Group 4: Theory exam applications open **Monday 10th March CLOSE 4pm Monday 17th March 2025**

Sub Group 4: Theory Exam **Wednesday 9th April 2025** - Bulla Exhibition Centre

SUB GROUP THREE – POINTER and SETTERS (to be sat on the night of Sub Group 4 Exam)

Tuesday 13th May – Pointer

Tuesday 20th May – Irish Setter

Tuesday 27th May – English Setter

Tuesday 3rd June – Gordon Setter

Tuesday 10th June – Irish Red and White Setter

Tuesday 17th June – **Revision Night** – Sub Group 3

Sub Group 3 Field Night/Day - TBA

Please Note: It is compulsory to attend and participate in at least ONE (1) of the above Field Day(s) scheduled for Sub Group THREE & FOUR to be eligible to apply for a Practical Exam.

Sub Group 3: Theory exam applications open **Monday 9th June – CLOSE 4pm Monday 16th June 2025.**

Sub Group 3: Theory exam **Wednesday 2nd July 2025** - Bulla Exhibition Centre

All licensed and Trainee Judges are welcome to contact the coordinator and attend any of these lectures. All lectures to commence at 7:30pm SHARP. Trainees arriving later than 7:35pm or consistently late, will not be credited with attendance.

GROUP 4 HOUNDS

LEADER

Judy Oliver

Mobile: 0417 368 621

judyoliver2@bigpond.com

All lectures will be zoom meetings, **lectures to commence at 7:30pm SHARP.**

Trainees arriving later than 7:35pm or consistently late, will not be credited with attendance!

All trainees **MUST** participate and be able to be viewed by the group leader **throughout the entire lecture to be accredited with attendance.**

Trainees are to attend all the below listed Sub Group 3 & 4 Breed Lectures as they are all part of the lecture series.

*****Tuesday 28th January 2025 - Introduction Night is a **MUST** for ALL Trainees and Aspirants.
Held at Bulla Exhibition Dog Centre 7:30pm.**

SUB GROUP THREE

Wednesday 5th February – Hound Group Introduction

Wednesday 12th February – All Dachshunds

Wednesday 19th February – Basset Hounds

Wednesday 26th February – Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen, Grand Basset Griffon Vendeen & Basset Fauve de Bretagne

Wednesday 5th March – Black & Tan Coonhounds & Bluetick Coonhounds

Wednesday 12th March – **Revision Night** - Sub Group 3

Wednesday 19th March – **Field Night** – Bulla Exhibition Centre

Sub Group 3: Theory exam applications open **Monday 10th March CLOSE 4pm Monday 17th March 2025**

Sub Group 3: Theory Exam **Wednesday 9th April 2025 - Bulla Exhibition Centre**

SUB GROUP FOUR

Wednesday 23rd April – Beagles

Wednesday 30th April – Foxhounds & Harriers

Wednesday 7th May – Bloodhounds & Otterhounds

Wednesday 14th May – Basenji

Wednesday 21st May – Norwegian Elkhounds & Finnish Spitz

Wednesday 28th May – **Revision Night**– Sub Group 4

Please Note: It is compulsory to attend and participate in at least ONE (1) of the above Field Day(s) scheduled for Sub Group THREE & FOUR to be eligible to apply for a Practical Exam.

Sub Group 4: Theory exam applications open **Monday 9th June – CLOSE 4pm Monday 16th June 2025.**

Sub Group 4: Theory exam **Wednesday 2nd July 2025 - Bulla Exhibition Centre**

All licensed and Trainee Judges are welcome to contact the coordinator and attend any of these lectures. All lectures to commence at 7:30pm SHARP.

Trainees arriving later than 7:35pm or consistently late, will not be credited with attendance.

GROUP 5 WORKING

LEADER

Mick Wilkinson

PH: 0404 464 729

daneozetal7@gmail.com

All lectures will be zoom meetings, **lectures to commence at 7:30pm SHARP.**

Trainees arriving later than 7:35pm or consistently late, will not be credited with attendance!

All trainees **MUST** participate and be able to be viewed by the group leader **throughout the entire lecture to be accredited with attendance.**

Trainees are to attend all the below listed Sub Group 3 & 4 Breed Lectures as they are all part of the lecture series.

*****Tuesday 28th January 2025 - Introduction Night is a **MUST** for ALL Trainees and Aspirants.
Held at Bulla Exhibition Dog Centre 7:30pm.**

SUB GROUP THREE – Sheep Herders (Long Coats)

Thursday 30th January – Bearded Collie

Thursday 6th February – Bergamasco Shepherd & Polish Lowland Sheepdog

Thursday 13th February – Briard

Thursday 20th February – Old English Sheepdog

Thursday 27th February – Puli & Pumi

Thursday 6th March – Pyrenean Sheepdog (Long Haired) & Mudi

Thursday 13th March – **Revision Night** – Sub Group 3

Saturday 22nd March – **Field Day** – Sub Group 3-**Twilight Canine Country Club** - Bulla Exhibition Centre

Sub Group 3: Theory exam applications open **Monday 10th March** **CLOSE 4pm** **Monday 17th March 2025**

Sub Group 3: Theory Exam **Wednesday 9th April 2025** - Bulla Exhibition Centre

SUB GROUP FOUR – Short Coat & Spitz Type Herders

Thursday 24th April – Australian Cattle Dog

Thursday–1st May - Australian Kelpie

Thursday– 8th May - Australian Stumpy Tail Cattle Dog

Thursday– 15th May - Welsh Corgi (Cardigan) & Welsh Corgi (Pembroke)

Thursday– 22nd May - Norwegian Buhund & Swedish Vallhund

Thursday– 29th May - Finnish Lapphund & Swedish Lapphund

Thursday– 5th June - **Revision Night** – Sub Group 4

Saturday – 18th May – **Field Day** – **Werribee/Barwon KC Champ Show** – Bulla Exhibition Centre

Please Note: It is compulsory to attend and participate in at least ONE (1) of the above Field Day(s) scheduled for Sub Group THREE & FOUR to be eligible to apply for a Practical Exam.

Sub Group 4: Theory exam applications open **Monday 9th June** – **CLOSE 4pm** **Monday 16th June 2025.**

Sub Group 4: Theory exam **Wednesday 2nd July 2025** - Bulla Exhibition Centre

All licensed and Trainee Judges are welcome to contact the coordinator and attend any of these lectures. All lectures to commence at 7:30pm SHARP.

Trainees arriving later than 7:35pm or consistently late, will not be credited with attendance.

GROUP 6 UTILITY

LEADER

Julie Keenan

PH: 0407 830 710

newf@aussiebb.com.au

All lectures will be zoom meetings, **lectures to commence at 7:30pm SHARP.**

Trainees arriving later than 7:35pm or consistently late, will not be credited with attendance!

All trainees **MUST** participate and be able to be viewed by the group leader **throughout the entire lecture to be accredited with attendance.**

Trainees are to attend all the below listed Sub Group 3 & 4 Breed Lectures as they are all part of the lecture series.

*****Tuesday 28th January 2025 - Introduction Night is a **MUST** for ALL Trainees and Aspirants.**

Held at Bulla Exhibition Dog Centre 7:30pm.

SUB GROUP THREE

Thursday 30th January – Newfoundland & Landseer (European Continental Type)

Thursday 6th February – St Bernard

Thursday 13th February – Bernese Mountain Dog & Great Swiss Mountain Dog

Thursday 20th February – Pyrenean Mountain Dog & Pyrenean Mastiff

Thursday 27th February – Portuguese Water Dog & Tibetan Mastiff

Thursday 6th March – Caucasian Shepherd Dog & Tornjak

Thursday 13th March – **Revision Night** – Sub Group 3

Sub Group 3: Theory exam applications open **Monday 10th March CLOSE 4pm Monday 17th March 2025**

Sub Group 3: Theory Exam **Wednesday 9th April 2025** - Bulla Exhibition Centre

SUB GROUP FOUR

Thursday 10th April – Boxer

Thursday 24th April – Dobermann & German Pinscher

Thursday 1st May – Rottweiler & Russian Black

Thursday 8th May – All Schnauzers

Thursday 15th May – Leonberger, Estrela Mountain Dog & Yugoslavian Shepherd Dog - Sharplanina

Thursday 29th May - Revision Night – Sub Group 4

Sunday 27th July – **Field Day – Utility Dog Club Championship Show** – KCC Park

Please Note: It is compulsory to attend and participate in at least ONE (1) of the above Field Day(s) scheduled for Sub Group THREE & FOUR to be eligible to apply for a Practical Exam.

Sub Group 4: Theory exam applications open **Monday 9th June – CLOSE 4pm Monday 16th June 2025.**

Sub Group 4: Theory exam **Wednesday 2nd July 2025** - Bulla Exhibition Centre

All licensed and Trainee Judges are welcome to contact the coordinator and attend any of these lectures. All lectures to commence at 7:30pm SHARP

Trainees arriving later than 7:35pm or consistently late, will not be credited with attendance.

GROUP 7 NON-SPORTING

LEADER

Shellie Marshall
PH: 0433 796 333

shellie@pampard.com.au

All lectures will be zoom meetings, **lectures to commence at 7:30pm SHARP.**

Trainees arriving later than 7:35pm or consistently late, will not be credited with attendance!

All trainees **MUST** participate and be able to be viewed by the group leader **throughout the entire lecture to be accredited with attendance.**

Trainees are to attend all the below listed Sub Group 3 & 4 Breed Lectures as they are all part of the lecture series.

*****Tuesday 28th January 2025 - Introduction Night is a **MUST** for ALL Trainees and Aspirants.
Held at Bulla Exhibition Dog Centre 7:30pm.**

SUB GROUP THREE

Wednesday 5th February – Non Sporting Introduction, Canaan Dog & Eurasier

Wednesday 12th February – German Spitz (Mittel), German Spitz (Klien) & Japanese Spitz

Wednesday 19th February – Keeshond

Wednesday 26th February – Schipperke

Wednesday 5th March – Chow Chow

Wednesday 12th March - Field Night – Bulla Exhibition Centre

Wednesday 26th March – Revision Night – Sub Group 3

Sub Group 3: Theory exam applications open **Monday 10th March CLOSE 4pm Monday 17th March 2025**

Sub Group 3: Theory Exam **Wednesday 9th April 2025** - Bulla Exhibition Centre

SUB GROUP FOUR

Wednesday 30th April – Shar Pei

Wednesday 7th May – Shih Tzu

Wednesday 14th May – Lhasa Apso & Tibetan Terrier

Wednesday 11th June - Revision Night – Sub Group 4

Sunday 27th July – Field Day – Non-Sporting Dog Club - Champ Show – KCC Park

Please Note: It is compulsory to attend and participate in at least ONE (1) of the above Field Day(s) scheduled for Sub Group THREE & FOUR to be eligible to apply for a Practical Exam.

Sub Group 4: Theory exam applications open **Monday 9th June – CLOSE 4pm Monday 16th June 2025.**

Sub Group 4: Theory exam **Wednesday 2nd July 2025** - Bulla Exhibition Centre

All licensed and Trainee Judges are welcome to contact the coordinator and attend any of these lectures. All lectures to commence at 7:30pm SHARP.

Trainees arriving later than 7:35pm or consistently late, will not be credited with attendance.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where do I find a list of lecture dates and updates?

- There is a list of Lecture Dates in the 2025 DV Judges Trainee Manual and updates/alterations are available on the Dogs Victoria website Trainee Info Page. It is also published in the Gazette, but this is maybe often out of date.
- To keep updated you **MUST** check your **Group's Facebook page** and the Dogs Victoria website regularly.

Where do I get the Critique Forms / Attendance Forms / Judging Record forms?

- These are available to download and print on the Dogs Victoria website Trainee Info Page.

Where do I find the Theory/Practical Examination Application forms?

- These will be available to download and print on the Dogs Victoria website Trainee Info Page when applications open and well before the closing dates.

Where do I find the Theory / Practical Examination Application Closing Dates?

- You will find a complete list of Program Dates in the 2025 Trainee Manual and on the Dogs Victoria website.

Where do I find current Breed Standards?

- These are available to download and print on the Dogs Australia website.

Can I count dogs I examine at Breed Lectures on my Judging Record?

- **NO.** You can only count dogs that you judge: Dogs Australia Reg. 6.1.2 Module 2. Practical Experience: Judging may be in the form of hands-on experience by placing dogs at Open Shows, Sweepstakes, Members Competitions, but not at breed lectures.

How many dogs can an ANKC Accredited Assessor sign off as judged at a non-contracted show?

- Ten (10) dogs

Can I critique dogs at Breed Lectures?

- **NO.** Critiques are a training tool and need time for full discussion with an Accredited Assessor to read your critique and have a full discussion on said dog.

Can I sit outside the ring and write critiques and then, without mentoring or discussion on each and every dog, ask the Accredited Assessor to sign them?

- **NO.** The Regulations state that the dogs must be **EXAMINED**. The critiques need to be read and discussed with a Dogs Australia Accredited Assessor before signing **ON THE DAY**.

Do I have to use the official Intensive Critique Forms & Accredited Assessor Observation Form? See Page 9 of the 2025 Manual

- **YES,**
- You can get the official Intensive Critique Form & AA Observation Form on the DV website.

If I judge a Trainee/Sweepstakes Class at a show, can I ask the Show Secretary to sign the 'Dogs Judged Form'?

- **NO.** The form **MUST** be signed by Accredited Assessor who is mentoring on the class.

Do I have to maintain my personal Trainee Zoom Attendance form?

- **Yes.** It is necessary for both trainee and group leader to have Attendance Records to cross-check the information should there be a dispute.

Do I have to do a Specialty Critique?

- **YES.** Trainee judges are required to attend a minimum of one breed, multi variety (eg Poodle Club) for their group they are studying within the duration of the scheme. Complete a minimum of **one written intensive critique at such "specialty show"** as a part of the required 15 Intensive Critiques.

Is the Specialty Critique included in the 15 Critiques?

- **YES.** They are. It is 1 critique of the 15 required.

What do I do with essays after missed lecture attendance?

- Trainees must send 3 copies of essays **within 14 days**, one to each below.
 1. The group leader for checking
 2. Dogs Victoria office: All conformation judges training paperwork emailed to the office is to be sent to: etimewell@dogsvictoria.org.au
 3. CJC Chair

Can my essays contain cut and paste material?

- **NO.** Submitted essays must be in your own words and include pictures.

If I'm sitting a re-test and don't want to attend lectures, do I have to pay the Training Fees?

- **YES.** If you wish to participate in the Judge's Training Program each year you **MUST** complete and lodge the Trainee Application form and pay the fees every year you are on the scheme.

Can a Trainee who is currently enrolled in the Judges Training Program and is licenced for the group/breed I am training for, sign off on my critiques?

- **NO.** All critiques **MUST** be signed on the day by an ANKC Accredited Assessor for that breed, who is **not** a Trainee Judge currently enrolled in the Judges Training Scheme.
- You must have an ANKC Accredited Assessor, and they themselves **MUST** have examined and discussed the dog critiqued on that same day.

Can Trainees do critiques on any of the breeds they are training for?

- **YES.** 15 different breeds (not varieties) from the group they are training for. All the intensive critique forms **MUST** be completed, discussed, and signed by the trainee and licenced ANKC Accredited Assessor on the day.

How many Intensive Critiques can a Dogs Australia Accredited Assessor sign?

- A maximum of THREE per Trainee.

Can I critique baby puppies?

- **NO.** A Trainee cannot critique baby puppies.

Can I count dogs I judge in a 'Property Class' at a Speciality Show?

- Sometimes – Only in classes where the entire dog is judged.
e.g., Owner/Breeder Class, Interstate Exhibitor Class, Puppy Sweeps Class (over 6 months)
But **NOT** Best Head, Colour, Gaited etc where the whole dog is not being judged.

Can I complete Intensive Critiques interstate, and have them signed?

- **YES**, but they **MUST** be on the CJC Intensive Critique & AA Observation Form and completed as required by the Dogs Victoria CJC.
They **MUST** be discussed and signed off by an DA Accredited Assessor ON THE DAY.

Can I critique two varieties of a breed (eg Long Coat & Smooth Coat Chihuahua)?

- **NO.** You cannot count 2 varieties of a breed in your 15 Intensive Critiques.

Can a Trainee Judge exhibit at a Champ Show where they are judging a Sweepstakes?

- **YES.** As long as the Sweepstakes is conducted prior breed classes (reg: 7.11.20)

Can a Trainee Judge, judge sweepstakes at an All Breeds Show?

- **YES.** If they have a minimum qualification of 2 Champ Show and 2 Open Show licences.

DOGS AUSTRALIA REGULATIONS PART 3 **JUDGES TRAINING & EXAMINATION PROGRAM**

Index to Regulations

Terminology Reg. 1

Method of Education Reg. 2

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1 Terminology

1.1 Member Body

The relevant authority in each State or Territory.

1.2 Dogs Australia

Australian National Kennel Council

1.3 CJTC

The Member Body's Conformation Judges Training Committee

1.4 Judges Education Program

A Training Program for Conformation Judges conducted by the Member Body in accordance with the current Dogs Australia Regulations and Member Body's Supplementary Regulations at the time of the commencement of the Program. (Added 10/11)

1.5 Enrolment Form

A form approved by the Member Body to be completed by the Aspiring and/or Trainee Judge which clearly indicates the date and time that the enrolment form is to be in the hands of the Member Body as well as the applicable enrolment fee.

1.6 Aspiring Judge

A person accepted into the Judges Education Program, for their 1st Group or single breed, but not yet qualified to judge the relevant Breeds or Groups at any fixture.

1.7 Trainee Judge

A person having fulfilled the Aspiring Judge's syllabus and passed the relevant examinations is qualified to enter the Trainee Judge's phase of the Education Program.

1.8 Dogs Australia Championship Show Judge

A person who has successfully completed the required Trainee Judge Theory and Practical Examinations and, is qualified to apply to be elevated to Dogs Australia status whereby they may then judge individual breeds and/or one or more Groups for which they are qualified at Championship Shows conducted anywhere in Australia and Overseas. (Amended 10/12 - 7.4.1)

1.9 Accredited Assessor

A person licensed as a Judge by Dogs Australia who complies with Section 8 of these Regulations.

1.10 Mentor

An Dogs Australia Championship Show Judge who has completed the Dogs Australia Assessor Accreditation Program as outlined in Section 8.1 of these regulations.

1.11 Learning modules

Refer 6.1.1, 6.1.2, 6.1.3 6.1.4 and 6.1.5

1.12 Clerk of Examinations

A person approved by the Member Body to oversee all aspects of the Practical Examinations. (Amended 10/09, 7.1)

1.13 Distant Trainee

Trainee Judges who are considered by a Member Body CJTC to reside a distance from the normal venue for lectures and theory examinations, that would pose a travelling risk, may apply to study through "Distance Training". (Added 10/13 – 5.6.4)

(Applications are to be made prior to the start of the lecture period)

2. Method of Education

2.1 Self-Education: Trainee Judges will be required to educate themselves to examination standards by studying Breed Standards, Dogs Australia approved Breed Standard Extensions, the Dogs Australia Glossary of Canine Terms and other appropriate material, researching breeds and presenting their findings, attending appropriate Lectures, Seminars and Field Events as arranged by the Member Body CJTC, writing critiques, visiting kennels, discussing breeds with breeders and exhibitors, attending Group and Breed Championship Shows and stewarding, thereby acquiring as wide and as sound a knowledge as possible of the breed, or breeds in the relevant Group. Education and Examinations will incorporate the principles of Competency Based Training and the use of Mentors or Accredited Assessors.

The Competencies, Which Trainees Will Be Expected to Achieve Through the Program, Are:

- Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the Breed Standards.
- Ability to identify characteristics in relation to the Breeds for the Group in which they are a Trainee.
- Ability to recognise soundness in relation to the Breeds for the Group in which they are a Trainee.
- Ability to use Breed specific language and apply it correctly in their description of the Breeds for the Group in which they are a Trainee.
- Ability to approach and examine the exhibits correctly and appropriately for the Breeds for the Group in which they are a Trainee.
- Ability to place the better dogs at the front of the class in the Breeds for the Group in which they are a Trainee.
- Demonstrate control, organisation, and effective use of the judging ring.
- Demonstrate an ability to make decisions in an effective way and in an efficient time frame.
- Demonstrate a practical knowledge of stewarding.
- Demonstrate an ability to understand and apply the Regulations relevant to dog judging.

2.2 State Controlling Body Contribution. Each Member Body shall assist by providing Lectures, Field Events, equipment, teaching aids and examinations.

2.3 Record Keeping. Trainee Judges shall maintain their own records and submit signed originals of the applicable records when applying for an Examination.

3. Teaching Aids and Materials

3.1 Rules and Regulations. As authorised by Dogs Australia Regulations and the Member Body Rules & Regulations.

3.2 Anatomy. The publication/s approved by Dogs Australia shall be the references for Anatomy.

3.3 Canine Terms. The Glossary of Terms as published by Dogs Australia.

3.4 Breed Standards as approved by Dogs Australia.

3.5 Extensions to Breed Standards as approved by the Dogs Australia, where available can form the basis of all lectures, but must not be used as the basis in Theory examinations, excepting for a Single Breed theory examination.

3.6 Any other material as authorised by Dogs Australia from time to time.

5. Aspiring Judge Training Program

5.1 Once accepted into the Program, the applicant must:

5.1.1 Attend all lectures and pass the Theory Examination on Rules & Regulations, Anatomy, Glossary of Terms, Judging Procedure and Show Management.

5.1.2 The Member Body shall have the option of including a practical examination which may be on the Aspiring Judges primary breed. The examination shall comprise one (1) class, consisting of a minimum of five (5) dogs of either sex and over the age of six (6) months. The Aspiring Judge is not to be examined on their own or co-owned dogs. There shall be no more than one (1) Practical Examination per calendar year for Aspiring Judges.

5.2 Successful completion of the training will qualify the Aspiring Judge to complete and submit the approved enrolment form, with the appropriate fee, for the Group Entrance Theory Examination on Breeds in the Group for which they are training. There shall be no more than one (1) Group Entrance Examination per calendar year for Aspiring Judges.

5.3 A pass in the Group Entrance Theory Examination will enable the Aspiring Judge to complete and submit the approved enrolment form to enter the Trainee Judge Program.

6. Trainee Judge Program (1st and Subsequent Groups)

6.1 A Trainee Judge acknowledges, upon submitting a signed enrolment form to their Member Body to enrol into a new Judges Education Program, that upon approval of their application by their Member Body they are governed by the current Dogs Australia Regulations and their Member Body's Supplementary Regulations operational at the time of their enrolment.

(a) To qualify for a Group Theory Examination in their first and subsequent Groups, the Trainee Judge must have completed and met all of the requirements of Module 1 below and have submitted an enrolment form.

(b) To qualify for a Group Practical Examination in their first and subsequent Groups, the Trainee Judge must have attained a pass in the Group Theory Examination, completed the following Modules 2 and 3 and have submitted an enrolment form.

(c) A Trainee Judge can only train for one (1) group initially. After passing their Initial group, a Trainee judge can train for no more than three (3) groups at any one time may only undertake one (1) Practical examination per year.

(d) A Trainee shall not be permitted to attempt more than (1) Theory examination per group in any Judges Education Program.

6.1.1 Module 1. Breed Lectures / Field Events / Seminars

With the exception of Distance Trainee Judges, Trainee Judges must attend a lecture on every breed in the Group at least once within the previous 2 years before applying for a Theory Examination. Trainee Judges are encouraged to attend any other Field Days and Seminars arranged by the Member Body.

The breed lecture series is to be run by the controlling body over a minimum 12-month period with a lecture for every breed in the group to be presented over that time.

(a) A Trainee Judge must be present for and participate in the entire lecture in order to be credited with attendance.

(b) Should a Trainee judge miss any Breed Lecture, they must within 14 days of the lecture, submit to the Member Body, a minimum one thousand (1,000) word essay on the Breeds dealt with in the missed lectures. Essays on a maximum of 25% of the breeds within the Group may be submitted over the period of the lecture series for missed lectures.

(c) In the event that a lecture for a particular breed is not offered, a written essay of a minimum one-thousand-word (1,000) word essay on that breed will be required by the end of the Lecture Series.

(d) Essays are to contain a history and description of the breed, its purpose and all relevant requirements contained in the Breed Standard and are to be illustrated with drawings/pictures. All essays are subject to approval of the CJTC as conforming with the conditions of this clause and achieving the required level of competency. (see page 28)

(e) Failure to submit the essays, in accordance with 6.1.1 (b), (c) and (d), will render the Trainee ineligible to sit the Group Theory Examination in the current Training Program.

6.1.2 Module 2. Practical Experience & 6.1.3 Module 3 Breed Specialty Show
Dogs Victoria Reg 7.14 Practical Experience Effective 15 November 2022.
See page seven (7) of this manual.

6.1.4 Failure to complete any components of Modules 2 & 3, i.e., judge fifty (50) dogs and submission of the required number of critiques dated during the program for which the Trainee is enrolled will render the Trainee ineligible for a Practical examination.

6.1.5 Trainee Judges who are considered by a Member Body CJTC to reside a distance from the normal venue for lectures and theory examinations, that would pose a travelling risk, may apply to study through "Distance Training". This would involve a minimum 1,000-word essay, as set out in 6.1.1, as a substitute for any lecture not attended, and completion of Modules 2 and 3. In addition, to obtain hands on experience Distant Trainee Judges must attend, each year, at least one (1) Field Day organised by the Group Leaders or judge two (2) Open Shows.

Approved Distance Trainees may complete the critiques by downloading photos of dogs from the Internet and approved by the Group Coordinator. (Amended 10/10) (Amended 10/23, 6.17 – effective 01/01/24)

7. Single Breed Training Program

7.1. To enrol in the Single Breed Training Program an Aspiring Judge must:

7.1.1 Comply with Regulation 5.1.1.

7.1.2 Submit a minimum of a one thousand (1,000) word illustrated essay on the relevant breed which is to contain a history and description of the breed, its purpose and all relevant requirements contained in the Breed Standard and attend the breed lecture offered in the Training Program at the time of applying for the Theory Examination. The essay is subject to approval of the CJTC as conforming with the conditions of this clause and achieving the required level of competency. (Amended 10/10) Where conducted, attend, (at the discretion of the Member Body) the breed club's Open and Championship Show, the Group club's Open and Championship Show and the breed judging at an approved major Show. i.e.: Royal Show or the major Non-Royal Show in each State. (see page 28)

7.1.3 To qualify for a Single Breed Theory Examination the Trainee Judge must have completed and met the requirements of 7.1.2 above and have submitted an enrolment form.

7.1.4 To qualify for a Single Breed Practical Examination the Trainee Judge must have attained a pass in the Single Breed Theory Examination and have submitted an enrolment form.

7.2 Unless otherwise determined, at the discretion of the Member Body, a practical examination for a single breed license shall consist of one (1) class of a minimum of five (5) dogs over the age of six (6) months, and one (1) class of a minimum of five (5) bitches over the age of six (6) months, and the Trainee Judge will be required to place the classes and select a Best of Breed and a Runner Up to Best of Breed. The Trainee must not be examined on dogs they own or co-own.

7.3 Upon passing the Single Breed Practical Examination, the Trainee Judge shall be listed as a Dogs Australia Championship Show Judge for that breed.

7.4 Where a Trainee Judge fails a Single Breed Practical Examination, that person shall not be required to obtain additional practical experience to be eligible for another examination the following year, providing he/she submits an enrolment form, and the examination is for the breed on which the applicant previously failed.

7.5 A Trainee Judge may only undertake one (1) Single Breed Practical Examination per calendar year.

7.6 A Trainee shall not be permitted to attempt more than (1) Theory examination per group in any Judges Education Program.

8. Appointment of Assessors. (Amended 10/23, 6.17 – effective 01/01/24)

To be appointed by the Conformation Judges Training Committee, an Assessor must not be a Trainee Judge in the current Judges Training Program and must;

8.1 Be a resident of the Member body conducting the Assessors course.

8.2 Be invited by the Chairperson of the CJC of the Member's State Body.

8.3 Invitation to attend the course must be in writing through the Member Body.

8.4 Not be under investigation for any offence by the Member Body.

8.5 Hold a Certificate of Approval issued under the ANKC Accreditation Program stating that the Assessor has completed the competency training.

8.6 Have held an ANKC Breed or Group Licence for a minimum of five (5) years for the Group or Breed being used in the examination.

8.7 Have judged the Group or Breed being used in the examination on at least three (3) occasions.

9. Theory Examinations

9.1 With the Exception of Single Breed Theory Examination, all theory examinations shall consist only of "short answer" and/or "multi choice question. Except for multi choice questions examinations where one (1) examiner is required, there shall be at least two (2) examiners appointed to separately mark the papers, without conferring. The results shall be separately forwarded to the Chairperson of the Member Body CJTC. In the case of a split decision (equal pass and fail) an additional examiner shall mark the papers and that mark shall decide the result. All theory examinations shall require a 75% pass mark. The Dogs Australia Breed Standards, Dogs Australia Glossary of Canine Terms and any other references authorised by the Dogs Australia shall be the only basis for the theory examinations for elevation to Championship status.

9.2 A Trainee Judge who has failed a theory examination (other than multi choice) may request a remark of their paper. Such requests are to be in writing within 14 days of advice of the result of the paper. Two (2) Examiners appointed by the Chairman of the Member Body CJTC to separately remark the paper. The Examiners shall not be the original markers of the paper concerned.

9.3 Should a Trainee Judge not attain a pass in the Group Theory Examination, to progress, they will be required to enrol in the next available or other future Judges Education Program.

9.4 A Trainee Judge must sit the Theory Examination within 3 years. They must also pass within five (5) attempts. If either of the previous criteria is not met or achieved, then they may not re-sit that examination for a period of two (2) years.

9.5 Theory Examinations are only to be set by an accredited Assessor nominated by the Member Body CJTC.

9.6 Should a Candidate provide proof, to the satisfaction of the Clerk of Examinations that they will be overseas or were incapacitated on the date of a scheduled Theory Examination they may be permitted to apply for and complete one of the following: that is a Pre or Post Examination.

9.7 Should a Trainee provide proof, to the satisfaction of the Member Body that they will be Interstate on the date of the theory examination they be permitted to sit the theory examination in that State on the same date and time as the scheduled theory examination. This is to be organised between the relevant State Member Bodies with the initial request being from the Trainee's State Member Body.

9.8 All Theory Examinations, once passed, are held for life.

10. Practical Examinations

10.1 Practical Examinations must be undertaken at a venue nominated by the Member Body CJTC and be supervised by the Clerk of Examinations.

10.2 There shall be no more than one (1) Practical Examination per Group per calendar year apart from any new examination conducted as a consequence of 10.9(b) or other relevant Member Body Regulation. Trainees may not undertake a Practical Examination for more than one (1) Group per year. Notwithstanding the foregoing, there is no obligation on a Member Body to conduct a Practical Examination for any Group in every calendar year.

10.3 The examination shall be conducted on two (2) classes, each class of a different breed and consisting of five (5) dogs over the age of six (6) months, and a third mixed class of five (5) different breeds over the age of six (6) months, excluding the two (2) breeds previously used.

10.4 A dog owned or co-owned by a member of an Examination Panel shall not be used in an examination class in which that Examiner is participating.

10.5 Three (3) Assessors shall be appointed as a Panel for each class in a Practical Examinations. They must not be a Trainee Judge in the current training scheme. After the commencement of the Examination they shall not confer, on the merits or otherwise, of the dogs presented for examination. Assessors are required to mark the placings of all dogs in a class from first to last on the prescribed form. Trainee Judges are to be encouraged not to spend more than two (2) minutes on each dog.

10.6 The Trainee Judge shall place the exhibits in order of merit, record the placings and will be required to answer questions on the class.

10.7 To gain a pass in a class, the Trainee Judge must be passed by at least two of the Assessors. It is not necessary for the Trainee Judge's and Assessors' placings to be the same, but Assessors must consider all aspects of the Trainee Judge's reasons for the placings, and whether the Trainee Judge has the better dogs at the front of the class and the poorer at the back. The Examiner must make his/her own independent assessment of Pass or Fail.

10.8 To be granted an overall pass, the Trainee Judge must pass the two (2) Breed Classes and the one (1) Group Class.

10.9 The results of Practical Examinations shall be collated by the Clerk of Examinations. Trainee Judges will be notified of their results by the Administration of the Member Body as soon as possible after the expiration of the appeal period. Examiners shall not divulge their individual assessment of a Trainee Judge prior to the results being distributed. Results shall not be given at the time of the Practical Examination. (Amended 10/12 - 7.4.1)

(a) In the case of a failed result, should the Clerk of Examinations have any concerns in regard to the inappropriateness of the Practical Examination paperwork, the concerns will be reported to the next available Dogs Australia Member Body's Management/Board meeting.

(b) Should the Dogs Australia Member Body's Management/Board concur with the Clerk of Examinations concerns a new Practical Examination will be conducted for the relevant Trainee Judge.

**** Appeals are to be made in writing by 5pm the following day of practical examination to the Members Body.**

10.10 Where a Trainee Judge believes they have a legitimate reason for not wishing to be examined by 'particular' Assessor/s, they may submit a maximum of (2) two names to the Member Body of those they do not wish to be examined by **in writing at the time of applying for a practical examination. They must set out the reasons for such request.** The Member Body will retain the right to refuse any such request. Any additional costs incurred by the Member Body are to be at the expense of the Trainee Judge.

10.11 The member Body, when approaching an Assessor to examine Trainee Judges at a practical examination, shall advise the Assessor of the names of the potential Trainee Judges and the Assessor shall advise the Member Body, as soon as practicable, if there are any Trainee Judges they do not wish to examine or for whom it would be inappropriate for them to examine due to any contractual or ethical reason.

10.12 No person shall make any photographic or video record of any part of a Practical Examination except with the prior permission of the State Controlling Body.

(a) Whilst undertaking a Practical Examination, a Trainee must not have in his/her possession, at ring side, a mobile telephone, electronic device or copy of the breed standards.

10.13. **Practical Exam Resit - Dogs Victoria Reg 7.14.4 Effective 15 November 2022.**
See page seven (7) of this manual.

PLEASE NOTE:

"NO electrical devices (e.g.: Mobile Phones, Tablets or Smart Watches) are allowed in the rooms while Trainees are waiting for their practical exam" Hard copies of standards are allowable

11. General

11.1 A Member Body may consider an application from a person transferring from another State or Territory of Australia or overseas, who can provide evidence of their eligibility.

11.2 A Member Body may consider for approval an application from an applicant over the age of eighteen (18) years, who otherwise would not qualify under Regulations 4.1 or 7.1, provided such applicant demonstrates an active involvement in canine activity for the minimum period/or as a handler for parents and others in ordinary classes and supply such other evidence of experience as the Member Body may require.

11.3 All State Member Bodies permit Members/Residents who live within a radius of 100kms from a State/Territory border be permitted full access to that States' Judges' Training Scheme subject to the approval of the Member Body in the State of the applicant's residence, applicants should be able to exercise their right to choose whether they elect to participate in a more geographically convenient scheme.

11.4 A Member Body may recognise an occasional attendance by a Trainee Judge at a lecture, Field Day or other training instruction conducted by another Member Body and if so recognised, the member shall receive a credit from their member Body for that attendance.

11.5 A Trainee Judge shall not undertake a concurrent Judges Education Program in another State or Territory.

11.6 Members of a Trainee's household (i.e., a person who resides at the same address) or members of the Trainee's immediate family (i.e., mother, father, sibling, or spouse) are ineligible to countersign the said Trainee's critiques or be mentors, assessors or examiners at exams (Practical or Theory) being taken by the trainee

12. Appeals

12.1 Appeals against the decisions of the Examination Panel will not be permitted.

12.2 Where a Trainee Judge believes that the Practical Examination for which they were a participant was not conducted in accordance with the Regulations they must lodge an appeal with the Clerk of Examinations no later than a period determined by the Member Body (DV) 24 hours after the conclusion of said practical examination and should detail the Regulation/s that are alleged to have been breached. Appeals received after this time will not be considered.

**** Appeals are to be made in writing by 5pm the following day of practical examination to the Members Body. Candidate results will not be released until after the appeal time.**