



Bulldog SHOW FACTS

Requirements for becoming an AKC judge

by Frank King

There are two ways to qualify for becoming an AKC Judge. One is through the handler program (which many of us think get an advantage) and the other, which we shall consider here, is as a breeder. This program has four requirements. They are:

1. You must have 12 years in the breed requested (such as membership in a breed-specific club, registration of dogs, etc.)
2. You must be the breeder of at least four champions in the breed requested (owner or co-owner of the dam of the champion)
3. You must have judged at least six AKC matches (note, however, sweepstakes or futurities count as two, so for example, four puppy matches and one sweeps would count as six)
4. You must have been a ring steward for at least six AKC shows.

If you ever have any interest in doing this, keep careful records of where you have judged and stewarded so you have this information available.

After you have fulfilled all of the above, contact the AKC, and they will send you the judge's rule books and the required test information. The test includes basic dog anatomy/terms and dog show rules including disqualifications, excused dogs (you need to know the difference), placements, ring procedures, etc.

After you fill out the exam you must meet with an AKC represen-

tative at a dog show to approve your paperwork before it is submitted. Assuming the paperwork is OK you then submit it to AKC and, if you pass the exam, they will arrange for you to interview with an AKC representative at a dog show. If you pass this stage, you will be listed in the AKC Gazette as having applied for your judge's license. If you do not get a bad review from this publication you will be listed as a provisional judge. At that point you can judge shows, and after five provisional assignments (where you are being evaluated), you are at last a Judge!



Frank King at a provisional judging, Fort Wayne Kennel Club, November 2, 2006.

