

# United States Rottweiler Club Youth Handler Program



*Growing our youth for tomorrow's leaders.*





# United States Rottweiler Club

## Youth Handler Program

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### **What is Youth Handling?**

The goal of the USRC Youth Handling competitions is to increase the youth's interest in Rottweilers and dog related care and activities by promoting and developing the co-operation between dogs and young people, and above all, by encouraging education, sportsmanship, friendship and welfare between youths and dogs.

Participation allows the opportunity for youths to learn more about Rottweilers and their characteristics. The sport encourages young dog lovers to gain awareness on how to care for and maintain the well being of the dog and the importance of being caretakers of the breed. These values will help support further generations of consciousness and responsible dog ownership culture.

### **Mission and Purpose**

#### *Youth Handler Program*

The youth Handler Program has been founded to promote and encourage youths ages 8-18 to become actively involved in the Rottweiler breed through participation in USRC shows, seminars, and IPO events.

USRC will support and encourage youth handlers, foster enthusiastic interest, and solicit judges to work with the Youth Handlers with education in mind.

Youth Handler conformation classes are non-regular classes and are judged solely on the ability and skill of Youth in handling their dogs in the breed ring and knowledge of the breed.

Youth Handler performance classes are regular entries and results will be recorded in the dogs scorebook per results of the scoring

The purpose of providing Youth competition is threefold: to introduce, encourage, and educate Youth in participation in events with the Rottweiler; and to provide Youth with meaningful competition from which they can gain knowledge, practice, and improve in the handling skills, knowledge and care of the Rottweiler; and learn the skill of sportsmanship

It is important that the USRC Executive Board, Members, and event Judges understand the purpose of the Youth classes and take serious their role in fostering and guiding the future guardians of the Rottweiler breed.

Judges are expected to have a genuine interest in the Youth Handler competitors and lead by example in professionalism and tone. They are expected to be educators with an interest in growing the future guardians of the breed.

### **Sportsmanship**

Winning is not the most important objective of participating in competing in the Youth Handler Program. The most important aspect to keep in mind is accepting the Judge's decision and using the information from the competition to continue to grow and improve as a handler.

Your purpose of entering competition is to enjoy the competition and gain further knowledge from the experience, understanding the aspect that you are a team with your dog. Win or lose, you are a team together and you are setting an example for the dog as well on how to comport themselves. Winning is not done alone, nor is losing. You are a team.

To become a good handler, you must exhort self-discipline, put forth individual effort, participate in seminars and practice courses, read study manuals and most of all train.

Be gracious when you lose and humble when you win. Both are learning exercises.

Practices to keep in mind:

- Never crowd out or run too close to other exhibitors
- Keep your dog comfortable in the ring
- Accept the Judge's decision and don't worry about it
- Be friendly and help others
- Enjoy yourself and keep your calm
- Don't be angry or sad when you lose
- Remember to congratulate the winners with an honest smile

- Praise and reward your dog
- Make sure your dog is always safe and happy
- Enjoy and learn from the experience

### **Event Host Information**

- a) Each club hosting an event is to include Youth Handler Competitions
- b) ages of entrants must be confirmed upon entry
- c) each youth handler must have a handlers book
- d) The classes are to include age groups for youth from 8 and under 18 years of age on the day of the competition
- e) classes are to be composed of ages: 8-10, 10-14, and 14-18
- f) competitors will receive a typed critique
- g) participation certificates will be provided for all entrants
- h) awards for places 1st through 4th in each class
- i) upon entry in the ring: handlers are to set their dogs approx. 2 meters from each other in line according to entry number, dog size, or pace of handler and dog at the discretion of the Host club or the Judge's wishes.
- j) ring stewards need to be aware of distance and guide entrants to ensure safety
- k) Each handler will be individually evaluated according to the entry sequence. The first participant in line will be asked to place the dog in front of the Judge; it is recommended that handlers wait until the Judge is available to call them, so that the Judge can be able to evaluate the entire procedure of the handler placing the dog in the correct standing position.
- l) The Judge will briefly examine the dog and can ask about the breed, the dogs age, husbandry questions and/or handling knowledge.
  - a) It is the handler's responsibility to show the dog's bite.
  - b) following the individual presentations, the judge will have the group move their dogs together

c) the judge will make final decisions

### **Age Groups**

age groups are to be composed of:

8-10

10-14

14-18

### **Judging**

The person judging Junior Handling competitions should be an experienced dog show judge that has experience in dog shows and working with Youth Handlers. In both cases, he/she must be fully familiar with the practice of handling Rottweilers in particular. Judges must be teachers by example. Be courteous, patient and approachable.

- The Judge should always consider the safety of every participant, being aware of addressing youths in a fair manner that will instill confidence in exhibitors.
- The focus of the evaluation process should be based on co-operation and synchronization among the participant and the dog.
- Every handler needs to be evaluated both individually and as part of a group.

*Ensure the safety of the Youth Handlers and their dogs during competition.*

1. Judges should arrange competitors in order of gaiting speed or size of dog to avoid crowding
2. leave adequate space between Youth Handlers
3. The Judge may ask handlers to switch dogs if he/she feels it is necessary in making a final decision and should assure that all dogs are safely handled and show no signs of aggression or obvious reluctance towards the handlers.
4. Any dog showing aggression or threatening behaviors towards judge, handler, or other dogs should be excused from the ring immediately

*Harmony and cooperation between the handler and the dog*

Throughout the evaluation process, a natural and continuous collaboration between the handler and the dog is ideal; embracing an overall corresponding appearance, through a perceptible demonstration of cooperation and true-going presence between the handler and the dog. Judges must be consistent with all Youth using the same criteria for gaiting, requests, and expectations.

A. Youth presents dog in a consistent, businesslike and safe manner.

B. The judge should observe the rapport between the Youth Handler and the dog and the presentation of the dog i.e. condition of the dog.

C. Youth Handler to present their dog for exam and critique including showing the bite of the dog.

D. Move the dog individually in a pattern

1. up and back
2. in a triangle
3. around the ring

E. Move the dog with the class

F. Judges may ask Youth general dog-related questions on canine anatomy, health and/or handling, or breed standard questions on the Rottweiler.

#### *Evaluation and Critique*

- A. The presentation and exam should closely resemble that of a regular breed class with the critique of the dog with an addendum section for a critique of the handler
1. critique of the dog
  2. critic of the Youth Handler handling skills and knowledge

#### Rules and Expectations from Youth Handlers

- A. USRC Youth Handler Program is open to youth from the ages of 8 to 18 as of the day of the event verified by a copy of legal documentation of child's age
- B. must be a family member of USRC to participate in the Program
- C. must be in possession of, and present at day of event, handler book in which results will be recorded
- D. youth are to present dogs no younger than 6 months in age, without illness or lameness, and within the Youth's ability to safely handle
1. do not choose a dog that is too large or strong as it is important to maintain harmony with the dog and stay safe
  2. For the security of all participants, a dog that could be dangerous or a threat to its handler or any other person in the ring should not be shown.
    - The Judge will be the person in charge of deciding if a dog is considered safe to be in the ring.
- E. at all times during the event Youth Handlers are required to conduct themselves with good sportsmanship and courtesy to others.
- F. The handler is recommended to use appropriate and functional clothing, such as shoes that are well adapted to the soil conditions and to the size of the dog. The colors of the handler's clothes should allow for the distinguishing of the dog's silhouette even from a distance, and any striking or inappropriate clothing is completely discouraged.
- J. expected to be prepared, ready and at ringside when their class is called
- K. follow judges/ring stewards direction as to line up inside of ring
- L. handlers avoid standing between the judge and the dog
- M. retain the leash in hand always
1. use the lead in his/her left hand and walk on the right side of the dog
  2. The lead should be cleanly kept inside the hand
- N. show dogs bite and open mouth
1. to check if the dog has a scissor bite, level bit or is undershot or overshot
  2. to check for full dentition
- O. know and demonstrate basic event routines
1. gaiting at a trot or walk depending on judge's wishes
  2. front and back
  3. triangle
  4. around the ring

5. safe spacing between dogs

P. Sportsmanship

1. Never crowd out or run too close to other exhibitors
2. Keep your dog comfortable in the ring
3. Accept the Judge's decision
4. Be friendly and help others
5. Enjoy yourself and keep your calm
6. Don't be angry or sad when you lose-it is a learning opportunity
7. Remember to congratulate the winners with an honest smile
8. Praise and reward your dog
9. Make sure your dog is always safe
10. Enjoy and learn from the experience

**Awards**

1. Each event offering a Youth Handler division shall be responsible for creating and presenting each Youth Handler with a Certificate of participation and award 1st - 4th place
2. Yearly Scholarship Award
  - a. monies will be awarded for a calendar year period beginning January 1 and ending December 31 of each year
  - b. the value of the Scholarship will vary dependent on the donations to the scholarship and the money paid into the fund through entries in Youth Handler classes, but shall be no less than \$250 US and no more than \$500 US for the calendar year
  - c. criteria for awarding scholarship shall be based off of a point system. The Youth Handler that accrues the greater number of points within a calendar year will be awarded scholarship for that year
    1. 15 points for competing and 25 points for passing a BH
    2. 25 points for competing and 50 points for passing IGP 1
    3. 50 points for competing and 100 points for passing IGP 2 or 3
    4. 10 points for first place at a Sieger show in Youth Handler Class
    5. 5 points for second place at a Sieger show in Youth Handler Class
    6. 3 points for a third place at a Sieger show in Youth Handler Class
    7. 1 point will be awarded to all Youth Handlers entering in a Sieger show
    8. 25 points for attending and participating in a USRC or AWDF Member Club sponsored seminar.



# JUNIOR HANDLING

## STUDY MANUAL

First Edition 2016

Originally produced by the FCI Youth

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FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE

**FOR YOUNG  
DOG LOVERS  
WORLDWIDE**



## OVERVIEW

This manual is a basic guide for **Junior Handlers** and for those who wish to improve their knowledge in Junior Handling in FCI shows. It hopes to work as an aid for youth participants in the handling process, by assisting as a study manual, with the basic support contents required for the student to practice and learn in their own time.

The **FCI Youth Junior Handling Study Manual** was created as a complementary reference to the official ***FCI Guidelines for World and Section Junior Handling Competitions***, proposed by the FCI Youth group; approved by the FCI Show and Judges Joint Commission, and by the FCI Executive Committee in February 2016.

Both support documents were created as references for the maintenance of a Junior Handling sport that will prepare youths in handling dogs inside show rings, but also to encourage the foundation of healthy and bonding relationships between youths and dogs, and to help juniors in becoming more aware of what is required in order to be a Handler.

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## What is JUNIOR HANDLING?

The aim of Junior Handling competitions is to increase the youth's interest in Cynological activities, by promoting and developing the co-operation and contact between dogs and young people, and above all, by encouraging sportsmanship, friendship and welfare between youths and dogs.

Junior handling also involves the opportunity for youths and youngsters to learn more about different dog breeds, as well as their various types and characteristics. The sport encourages young dog lovers to gain knowledge of how to take care of dogs and how to maintain animal wellbeing. These values will help support further generations of consciousness and responsible dog ownership culture.



Throughout the year, Junior Handling competitions take place during international shows and in shows organized by official FCI National Organizations, granting youths the opportunity to be assessed by a **Junior Handling Judge** and where all participants should be equally evaluated on the basis of the official ***FCI Guidelines for World and Section Junior Handling competitions***.

## SPORTSMANSHIP

The best way for junior handlers to become familiar with junior handling is to watch Junior Handling competitions during dog shows. **You will see how youths take part at all levels of competition, how they have developed friendships and have learned to compete and accept their wins and losses in a gracious manner.** Friendships in Junior Showmanship Competitions can be created in many different ways. Once you become friends with your fellow handlers, you will find that most of them have **feelings and goals that are very similar to your own.**

**Sharing and practicing together** in Junior Handling is a great way to begin and learn how to handle dogs. As friendships develop with fellow junior handlers, you will then be able to **help each other** on improving your skills. By helping one another, you establish a **team effort** that can greatly enhance the **overall and individual enjoyment** of the **sport.** Regardless of your abilities you will always share the experience of winning and losing, so **remember that this is a part of entering into any competition.**



**Winning is not the most important objective.** The most important thing to remember when you are not placed in the competition is to be able to accept the Judge's decision and learn how to improve through further



practice and learning; this can be achieved through individual effort, group courses, training programmes, study manuals and practice.

*Keep in mind that the most important outcome of the competition is that you enjoy yourself and learn from the experience.*

*Also remember to praise and reward your dog(s), win or lose, because a lot of effort has been required from them too!*

*Good handling requires self-discipline and experience. You need to be able to accept the evaluators' opinion and remember to use this ability when it comes to the winners being announced in the ring.*

*On most occasions, after judging the day's Junior Handling Competition, the judge will be available to give advice to the junior handlers that were entered during that day.*

## **SPORTSMANSHIP can be achieved in many different ways:**

- *Never crowd out or run too close to other exhibitors*
- *Keep your dog comfortable in the ring*
- *Accept the Judge's decision and don't worry about it*
- *Be friendly and help others*
- *Enjoy yourself and keep your calm*
- *Don't be angry or sad when you lose*
- *Remember to congratulate the winners with an honest smile*
- *Praise and reward your dog*
- *Make sure your dog is always safe and happy*
- *Enjoy and learn from the experience*

## BREED HISTORY

When choosing our dog, it is advisable to do some research about the **breed's history** and **breed type**, because it will help you to be more **understanding** of your **dog's behaviour**, **specific** features and **breed requirements**.

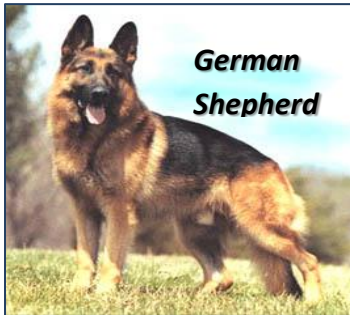
**There are hundreds of dog breeds worldwide and the FCI recognises 343 canine breeds.** Although many of them share common traits, the **FCI** places all recognized breeds into 10 distinct groups, depending on the **breed type** and **functionality**, this classification is called Nomenclature.<sup>1</sup> When you **learn** how to recognize **different breed types**, you will also notice that in time, it will be much easier for you to **identify yourself** with certain breeds, not only depending on their appearance, but also on that breed and that dog's **lifestyle**, **function** and **character**. This will soon prove to be **helpful knowledge** on **choosing a dog**, and also on how to successfully **handle different dog breeds inside and outside of the ring**.

## BREED STANDARD

You can **research** more information about the dog breed you are handling, by downloading the **FCI breed Standard**, a document that presents **guidelines** to describe the **ideal appearance**, **temperament** and **characteristics** of **each breed recognized by the FCI**. Each breed has an official **Breed Standard**, which includes a lot of information you can **learn from**. The breed Standard is a way to ensure that the breed is **healthy** and **fit** for its **utility** and **function**. If a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as undesirable in the breed standard, it is strongly recommended that it should **not** be handled in a dog show.

1. <http://www.fci.be/en/nomenclature/>

## Group 1: Sheepdogs and Cattle Dogs (except Swiss Cattle Dogs)



Sheepdogs and Cattle dogs are pastoral dogs that have a great ability to be trained with the function of herding their entrusted flock or herd. Dogs can herd other animals in a variety of ways. Sheepdogs and Cattle dogs actively round up cattle/ sheep with sound running skills, eye contact and barking. Herding dogs living only as household pets have pure herding instincts, even when not trained to herd farming animals. In general, these intelligent dogs make excellent companions and respond very efficiently to training exercises. These breeds ideally require owners who are skilled at training and willing to give them work occupations that remind these dogs of their strong herding instincts. Some of these breeds make for popular Police dogs, such as the German Shepherd, having many qualities that make them applicable for the job. Their duties include searching for explosives, searching for lost people, looking for crime scene evidence, and protecting their handlers

## Group 2: Pinscher and Schnauzer- Molossoid breeds- Swiss Mountain- and Cattle Dogs



This breed group includes breeds with different origins, which were raised and selected to watch the persons, houses, properties and animal flocks belonging to their owners.

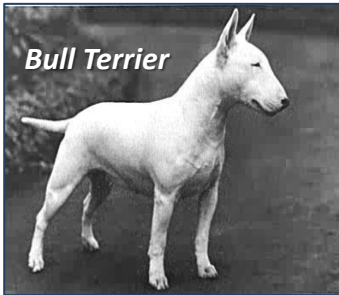
They are watchdogs.

Pinscher and Schnauzer breeds usually have a dark, smooth coat, and are greatly intelligent and adaptable. Dogs in this group include the Pinscher, Doberman, Schnauzer and Black Russian Terrier. Mastiff Type Dogs in this category usually possess a short, smooth and thick coat. Their weight varies from around 35kg to 65kg; with the typical height between 55 – 85 cm. Dogs in this group include the Boxer, English Bulldog and Rottweiler. Mastiffs are descendants of the most ancient types of breeds. Their ancestor, the molossus, was a ferocious type of war dog. They make fine companions and protection dogs.

Mountain Type and Swiss dogs come in various colors, with coats that are usually resistant to the cold and weather damage. Dogs in this category include the Landseer, Newfoundland and Pyrenean Mountain Dog. Some breeds, such as the St. Bernard and Bouvier Bernois, are used as rescue dogs to save people such as alpinists and travelers from snow storms and avalanches.



## Group 3: Terriers



The name Terrier comes from the Latin word terra, meaning earth, and references their love of digging for the search of prey, such as foxes, moles, badgers, and rats. Terriers tend to retain their puppy-like cuteness deep into life, and they all share a lively, playful personality and an energetic nature.

Terrier breeds come in a wide range of sizes and shapes. These are usually territorial dogs, and *will* bark at people or animals that approach their property. They are also escape artists and usually highly intelligent dogs.

If you are interested in a terrier, make sure that you are aware of the fact that they do not necessarily get along well with other dogs, cats, birds or other pets. This has to do with the fact that terriers were bred to hunt small animals on farms and personal property. They aren't normally recommended for first-time dog owners. Many Terriers have wiry coats that must be kept clean of dead hair as to retain the proper texture.

## Group 4: Dachshunds



For decades the Dachshund has been bred in three sizes: Teckel, Miniature Teckel and Rabbit Teckel, and in three different kinds of coat: Smooth-haired, Wire-haired and Long-haired). Dachshunds are scent hound dog breeds, who were bred to hunt badgers and other tunneling animals, rabbits, and foxes.

They are very social and love their family, wanting to be around them at all times. A typical dachshund is long-bodied and muscular with short legs. Its front feet are unusually large and paddle-shaped for extreme digging. The dachshund has a deep chest that provides increased lung capacity for stamina when hunting prey underground. Having long snouts with an increased nose area that absorbs odors.

Dachshunds are a very active dog breed and it is common for them to have big bursts of energy. Today their versatility makes them excellent family companions, show dogs, and small-game hunters. Dachshunds are brave, but they can be somewhat stubborn, and have an independent spirit, especially when hunting.



## Group 5: Spitz and Primitive Types



*Chow-chow*



*Basenji*



*Samoiedo*



*Pharaoh Hound*



*Alaskan Malamute*

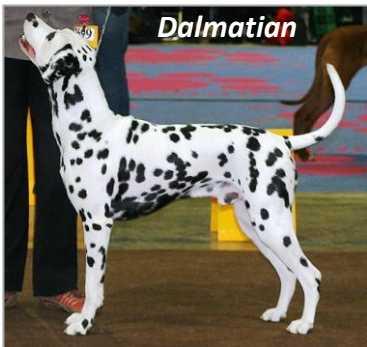


*Podenco Canário*

Spitz breeds include dogs characterized by long, thick fur, and with pointed ears and muzzles. The tail often curls over the dog's top line. Most of the spitz breeds seen today originate from the Arctic region or Siberia. In recent genetic testing of dog breeds, many Spitz breeds were found to be in the group closest to wolves, and presumed to be part of the oldest type of dogs. Through selective breeding, spitz breeds have been developed to be functional to humans mainly through hunting, herding, and pulling sleds.

Several types of Primitive dogs have developed in different parts of the world, travelling in boats through historic colonizers and developing during several centuries with little or almost no human intervention. Primitive breeds usually have reserved and suspicious temperaments, but this can be adapted to more sociable temperaments through socialization and interaction. Primitive types all share a common physical appearance, resembling a fox or a wolf, all bearing a pointed muzzle, a pyramidal shaded head and triangular shaped, erect ears.

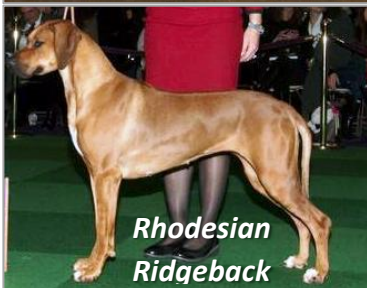
## Group 6: Scenthounds and Related Breeds



*Dalmatian*



*Bloodhound*



*Rhodesian Ridgeback*



*Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen*



*Basset Hound*



*Beagle*

Scenthounds were developed for trace tracking and finding prey. They are often used to hunt in packs, getting along well with other dogs. With a generally relaxed and affectionate temperament towards humans. Scenthounds are a type of hound that primarily hunts by scent rather than sight, and is regarded as having some of the most sensitive noses among all canines. Most of these breeds have long, drooping ears; helping them to collect scent and keep it near the dog's face and nose. Scent hounds need endurance and persistence so that they can stick with a scent and follow it for long distances over rough terrain. The best scent hounds can follow a scent trail even across running water and still when it is several days old!

Longer-legged hounds such as the Bloodhound or the Fox Hound run more quickly and require that the hunters follow on horseback; shorter-legged hounds such as the Basset Hound or the Beagle allow hunters to follow on foot. The Scenthound group includes dogs used for the tracking of game animals for hunting purposes, and of humans (as in search-and-rescue, and in fugitive capture). They are also used for explosive detection among other social benefits such as dog assistance and therapy.



## Group 7: Pointers and Setters



Pointers and Setters, are dogs trained for the examination of the field, by pointing and marking hunting game. They are medium-large sized dogs, with expressive eyes, and mobile ears, a very good sense of smell and with a special passion for searching prey. They are active through their character, and require plenty of exercise. They tend to be submissive with their owner, and very loyal companions. Earlier recorded pointer and setter breeds are believed to have been developed in Europe as far back as the 15th century. Pointers are characterized by the fact that, in the moment they are feeling the prey is near, they stop and “freeze” in a pointing position, with one leg raised and pointing their head in the prey’s direction, until the hunter is coming close. A setter silently searches for game by scent, hunting in a methodical manner. Setters get their name from their distinctive crouch or “set”, which is characteristic once they find their prey. All the breeds from this group accommodate easily in the life of an active family, and most of them enjoy the company of children, thrive on activities and enjoy being in the open air. Appreciated for these qualities and for their intelligence, many dogs from this group also became cherished companions.

## Group 8: Retrievers - Flushing Dogs - Water Dogs



Active and alert, many of the breeds included in this group are multi-functional and have been bred to work closely with people. These breeds enjoy long walks or runs and playing fetch. These dogs are resistant to tiredness and bad weather, with a good sense of smell and great passion for fetching. They are highly intelligent, active, friendly, gentle dogs, who enjoy working. Retrievers were bred primarily to retrieve birds or other prey and return them to the hunter without damage. As a result, retriever breeds are bred for soft mouths and a great willingness to please, learn, and obey. The retriever's willingness to please and trainability have made breeds such as the Labrador, Golden Retriever and Portuguese Water dog popular as assistance dogs. Spaniels were especially bred to flush game out of denser brush. By the late 17th century spaniels had been specialized and bred into water and land breeds such as the Clumber Spaniel and the English Springer Spaniel. Water dogs have dense, curly and water-repellent coats, to protect them in all types of weather conditions. They love people and are great family dogs. Water dogs often served water hunters and fishermen. A strong swimming desire, underwater swimming and no fear of water are characteristic features of water breeds.



## Group 9: Companion and Toy Dogs



*Japanese Chin*



*Chinese Crested Dog*



*Bichon Maltese*



*Bichon Frisé*



*Chihuahua*



*Papillon*

The toy group is characterized by dogs with small sizes but strong personalities. The Toy breeds are mostly small, companion dogs.

Although they are of small size, except for the Giant Caniche, many Toy dogs serve perfectly well as watchdogs because of their barking tendencies. These breeds should have friendly personalities towards their owners and family, and they usually thrive on attention. They do not need a large amount of exercise and some can be quite picky with what they eat! Toy dogs are companionable and usually highly trainable dogs.

This group includes several dog types; some are small versions of hunting dogs, spitz, or terrier types, bred down in size for a particular kind of work or to create a pet of convenient size for the home. In the past, very small dogs not used for hunting were kept as symbols of affluence, as watchdogs, and for the simple purpose of companionship that has united humans and dogs for several centuries.

## Group 10: Sighthounds



*Irish Wolfhound*



*Saluki*



*Azawakh*



*Greyhound*



*Afghan Hound*



*Borzoi*

Although today most sighthounds are kept primarily as pets, they have been bred for thousands of years to detect movement, chase and capture prey primarily by speed. The earliest description of a sighthound in European recorded history comes from the 2nd century AD. Most of the primitive sighthounds origin from Northern Africa, where breeds such as the Afghan Hound, Saluki or Azawakh were originally bred to hunt hares and gazelles by coursing and tracking prey by sight.

Some sighthounds such as the Borzoi or the Scottish Deerhound and Irish Wolfhound were used to hunt Deer's and Wolves. Most dogs in this category have smooth and silky coats in several colors. Sizes range from smaller breeds such as the Italian Greyhound, to larger sizes such as the Irish Wolfhound. These dogs specialize in pursuing prey, keeping it in sight, and overpowering it by their great speed and agility. They must be able to detect motion quickly, therefore they have great vision.

Sighthounds have a very flexible back and long legs for a long stride, and a deep chest to support their large lung capacity. Some have strong personalities, others are watchful or even hostile towards strangers, but the instinct to chase running animals remains strong.

## OBSERVATIONS to keep when CHOOSING a DOG

**Above all, the dog you chose to handle should be of a calm nature, with a good temperament and behaviour; preferably with whom the handler maintains a continuous and friendly relationship.** Remember that **even in the same breeds, each dog has its own personality!**

If possible, junior handlers are advised to choose a dog that either belongs to, or lives with them, because that way they can **train the dog at home** and therefore **develop a learning relationship** and **bond** between themselves and the dog, helping both parts in **learning together**.



One should try **not to** handle a dog that is **far too big or strong**, because it is important to be able to always **maintain harmony** with the dog that is being presented, and if our dog has too much strength, or is still **too young** to participate, it is advised that handlers do not enter this dog in Junior Handling competitions **until it is suitably trained**. The **size** of the dog has to be decided according to the **age** and **strength** of the **handler**.

For the **security** of all participants, a dog that could be dangerous or a **threat to its handler** or any **other person** in the ring should **not be** shown. The **Judge** will be the person in charge of **deciding** if a dog is **considered safe** to be in the ring.

## What else should I know about the dog I am handling?

In addition to the above, it is fully recommended that you know the dog's **name, age, and individual temperament.**

If the dog **does not belong to the handler**, it is advisable to **ask its owner and/or breeder** any important **information** that **the handler should know** about that specific dog **before handling**, and any extra advice that could be helpful.

Try to **spend as much time beforehand** with the dog you are handling, so that you **both get familiar** with each other. This will help you to become **more comfortable** together before entering the ring.

*Choose a dog carefully and try to be sure that you both feel comfortable and safe with each other.*

## DOG PSYCHOLOGY

Have you ever wondered **how dogs think**? Dogs experience positive emotions similar to that of a human child. The presence of familiar humans triggers positive feelings in a dog's brain. Dogs can and do **learn** by **modelling the behaviours of other dogs.**

A **dog** can **translate** their **owner's emotions** and **behaviours** to the object a person is looking at. Therefore, dogs are able to understand the differences in **human vocal tones** and the general meanings behind them. Dogs can **sense** if **you** are **feeling** happy, and they can also sense when you are feeling nervous or agitated, therefore it is very important that you try to be as **calm** as possible when **around your dog**, and this includes the time before and when you are participating in something together. **It is of no benefit to feel nervous anyway. Just try to relax, keep up the team work and be natural.**



## THE DOG LEASH

The dog lead should be a **show lead**, because house collars are not suitable for showing dogs in the ring. There are several types of show leads available and it is important to choose the most **suitable lead in function** of the **dog breed** that is **being handled**. The most important aspect is that the lead is **comfortable** for the dog's use as well as for use of the handler.



Junior handlers can get **advice** about what lead to use from **breeders, owners, handlers** and/or any person who knowledgeable on the matter.

It is also very important to position and **carry** the dog lead in the **right way**, depending on the breed the handler is showing.

**Ultimately, the position depends on the specific dog breed, but all leads should be kept comfortable for the dog handled.**

How the lead is placed depends on the individual breed. Some breeds such as sighthounds, Toy breeds, Daschunds and Terriers should be shown with the lead placed on the **top** part of the dog's neck, **just below the ears**. Breed types such as **Hunting dogs, Retrievers** and **Working breeds** usually **benefit** from a lead that is **placed** on the **base** of the **dogs neck**.

→ The lead should be cleanly **kept inside the hand**, because if it is dangling from the handler's hand, it will probably **distract** the dog and look less harmonious to the Judge and any observer, and because it might **interfere**, obstruct or get caught somewhere.

It is recommended that you use a lead that is **comfortable** for the **dog** and **not too long** or **too short** for the handler.

While showing **any dog** in a **ring**, the handler should **always** use the lead in **his/her left** hand and walk on the **right side** of the **dog**.



→ Under **no** circumstances should the lead **drop on** to the dog's **body** or be placed over the **dog's face** (happens frequently when showing the **dog's bite**).

## HOW THE COMPETITION IS PROCESSED

### Age Groups

- ❖ Only the single group aged **10-17 years** will be allowed to take part in **National** Junior Handling competitions.
- ❖ Each FCI NCO's (National Canine Organisation) may issue **national regulations** for the division of participants into **age groups** or **experience levels**.

### National Junior Handling Competitions

- ❖ **Every** junior handler who wishes to compete should be **entered** in the **day's** Junior Handling competition.
- ❖ **Each** FCI NCO's has a specific **procedure** for the **entry registration**; they could have entries on the closing day(s) before the show, **or** entry admissions only during the **morning/day** of the show;
- ❖ The Junior Handling competition should be **announced** by the **show committee** with **enough time** in **advance** to let juniors be prepared to compete;
- ❖ Handlers are **placed** in line on one side of the ring, **stacking** their dogs with about **two meters** distance from the **other participants**.

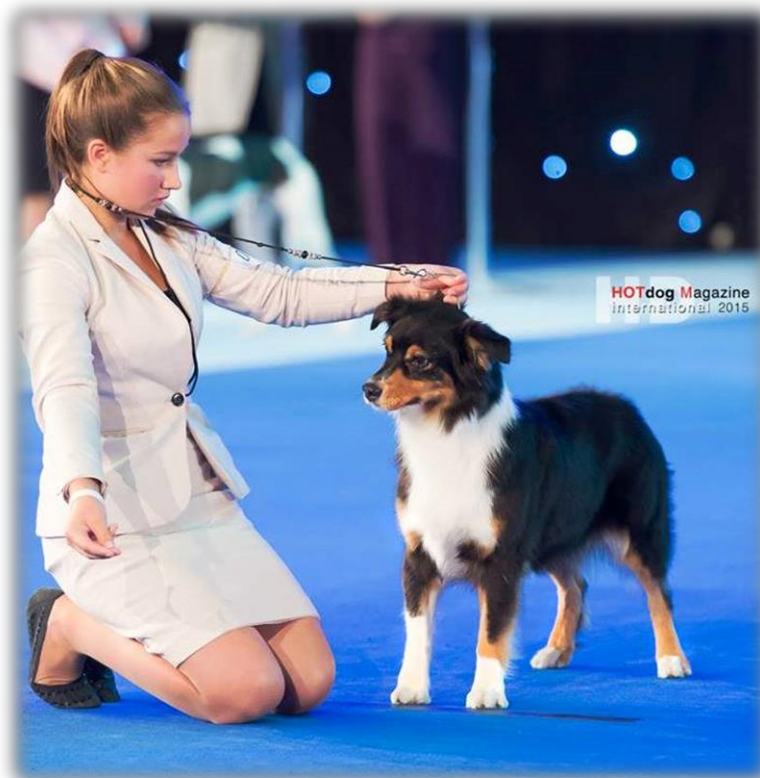


- ❖ The handlers can be placed according to their entry number, dog size or dog pace. These placements should be decided by the show organisation or requested by the Judge.
- ❖ **Each** handler will be individually **evaluated** according to the **entry sequence**. The first participant in line will be asked to **place** the dog in **front** of the Judge; it is recommended that handlers **wait** until the Judge is available to **call** them, so that the Judge can be able to evaluate the **entire** procedure of the handler placing the dog in the **correct** standing position.
- ❖ The Judge briefly **examines** the dog, simulating a breed ring **judgement**, and can ask to see the dog's **bite** and/or teeth.



- ❖ It should be the **handler's** responsibility to **show** the **dogs bite**.

❖ The judge **indicates** the **figure(s)** required in the **individual handling time**. The handler should **know** the **pace** and **speed** of the dog that is being presented.



❖ After completed the requested figure, handlers are advised to stand the dog in front of the Judge, before returning to their initial position.

❖ When **all of** the participants have made their individual presentation, the Judge will **return** to look at the **participants together before making a pre-selection**.

❖ The Judge evaluates the selected participants individually or in pairs, before making a **final selection** of the winning participants of the day's Junior Handling competition.

## **ENTERING THE RING**

*When entering the ring, it is recommended that participants remember the following advice:*

- **Be calm and move with balanced movements towards our dog**
- **Observe the other participants who pass their dogs before and after you**
- **Look at the Judge before entering the ring to see where the Judge is standing**
- **Listen to either the ring steward or the Judge as to where they want you to go**
- **Always listen carefully to the Judge's requests**
- **Make sure not to crowd the handler in front and behind you**
- **Always keep an eye on the Judge, so that you do not walk between your dog and the Judge**
- **When walking with your dog, be careful never to step over the dog's back - this is applicable particularly when handling smaller dog breeds**
- **If you are feeling nervous, take a deep breath and try to stay calm.**



## SETTING UP THE DOG

You are **expected** to be able to set up your **dog** in the **same way** as it would be set up in the **breed ring**. Remember that the dog you are handling should be shown in a **specific way, depending** on its **breed** and on its **size**.

The handler should have overall knowledge of the dog that is being handled, such as the **breed's name, the dog's name and its age**.



**Most of the breeds are stood all fours square.** The front legs of the dog are **parallel** and need to be positioned below the shoulders. The rear legs are usually positioned backwards as to have the hocks and feet of the dog vertical and at the width of the hips.

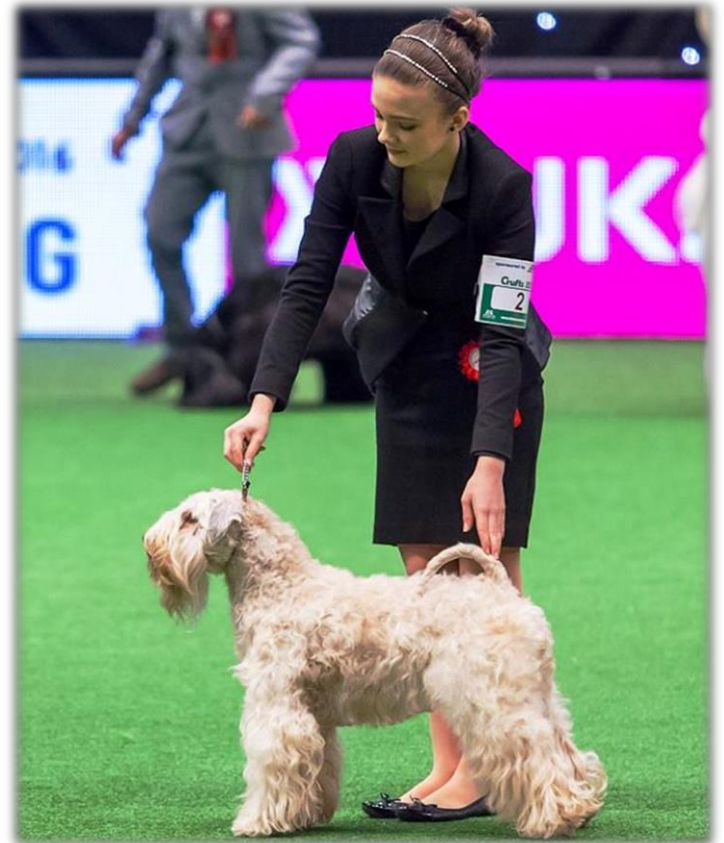
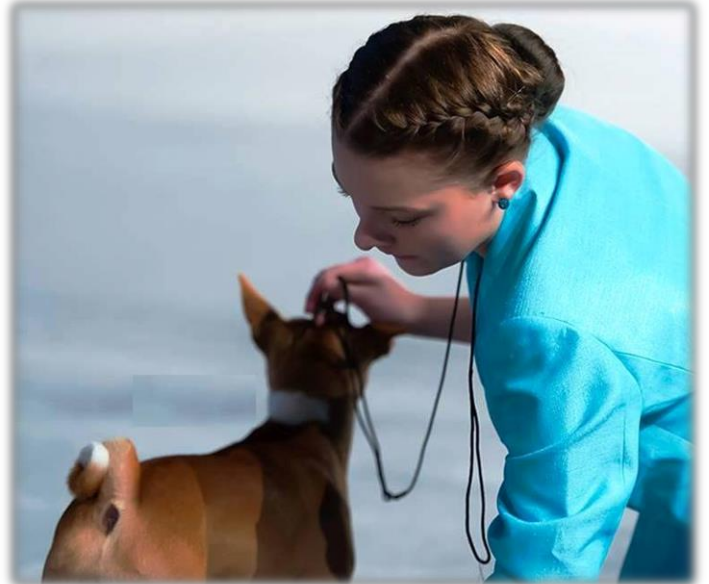
**It is up to the handler to be able to position their dog in the breed's expected position.** This information can be acquired from **breeders** or other **experienced handlers**. A handler should take the time to **watch the breed judging** of the breed they are **going to be handling**.

**Tabled** dogs should be placed on the table for the Judge's evaluation. Dog's should be placed **safely towards the front end of the table**.

Be careful that the dog is **not placed too close to the edge of the table**, to avoid any falling and causing of injury.



Most dogs are stood parallel to the ring side; **however** some breeds such as Bulldogs, and Staffordshire bull terriers, are stood facing the centre of the ring.





There are **many ways** to set up a dog for the Judges evaluation, but there are **two main ways** of showing that are frequently used in handling:

1. standing or kneeling behind the dog with the right hand holding the head of the dog either under the muzzle or by holding the lead above the head, while using your left hand to arrange the dogs feet, or to hold the tail;
2. standing in front of the dog, using a treat to incentivate the dog to free-stand itself



## SHOWING THE DOG'S BITE

Showing a dog's bite consists in showing the mouth of the dog by placing a hand underneath the dog's chin to steady the dog's head, and with the other hand lifting the dog's upper lip and showing the front and side views, keeping the teeth together and never using force.

**Remember not to cover the dog's eyes and nose with the leash when showing the dogs bite.**



Showing the dog's bite will allow the Judge to check if the dog has a **scissor bite, level bit or is undershot or overshot**. Opening of the mouth can be requested by the Judge to check the dog's full dentition.

**Participants should know if the breed they are showing has a specific way for showing the bite.**

The handler should know about the **typical dentition of the breed**, and how to show it to the Judge.

Do you know how many teeth an adult dog has?



**Be careful not to place yourself between the judge's view of the dog.**





## The Triangle

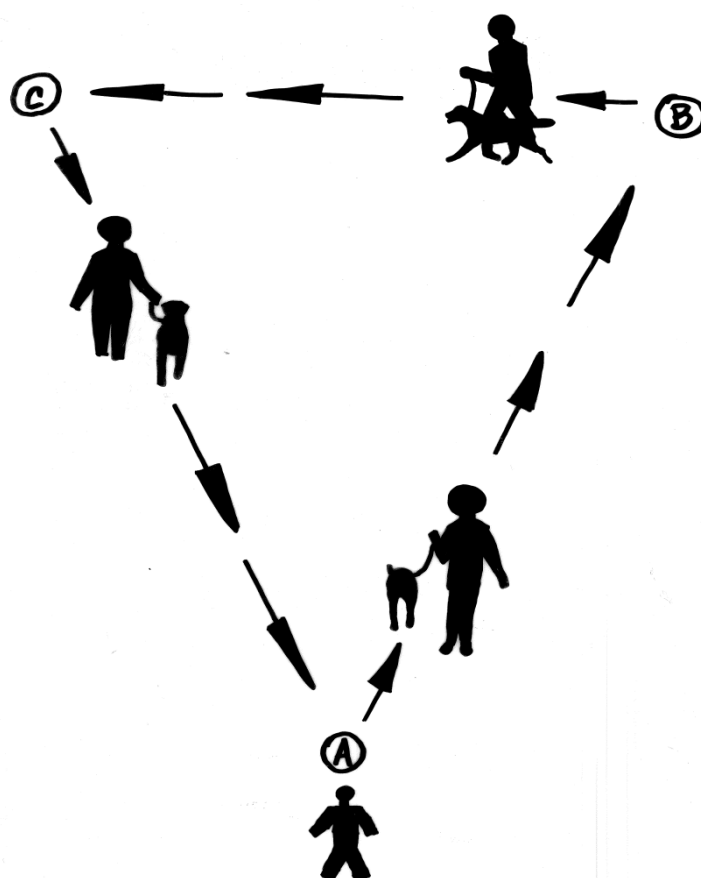
The Triangle figure is used to allow the Judge to see the rear, side and front views of the dog.

Observe the starting point of the Judge before you commence. The Judge should not find it necessary to move position to obtain the correct view of the dog.

The triangle should not be so wide as to be outside the Judge's line of vision, nor too narrow because the side view would be short. Aim for an equilateral triangle (all three sides' similar length). Avoid placing yourself between the Judge and your dog.

Go from point (A) to point (B) and then from (B) to (C). This should cross the Judge's line of vision. Bring dog back from (C) to (A) stopping approx. 2 metres away from the Judge and present the dog in front of the Judge.

The handler is required to leave from the judge and go around then return to the judge stopping approximately 2 metres (6 feet) from the Judge, stacking the dog or going back to the participant's initial position, depending on the judge's specific instructions.



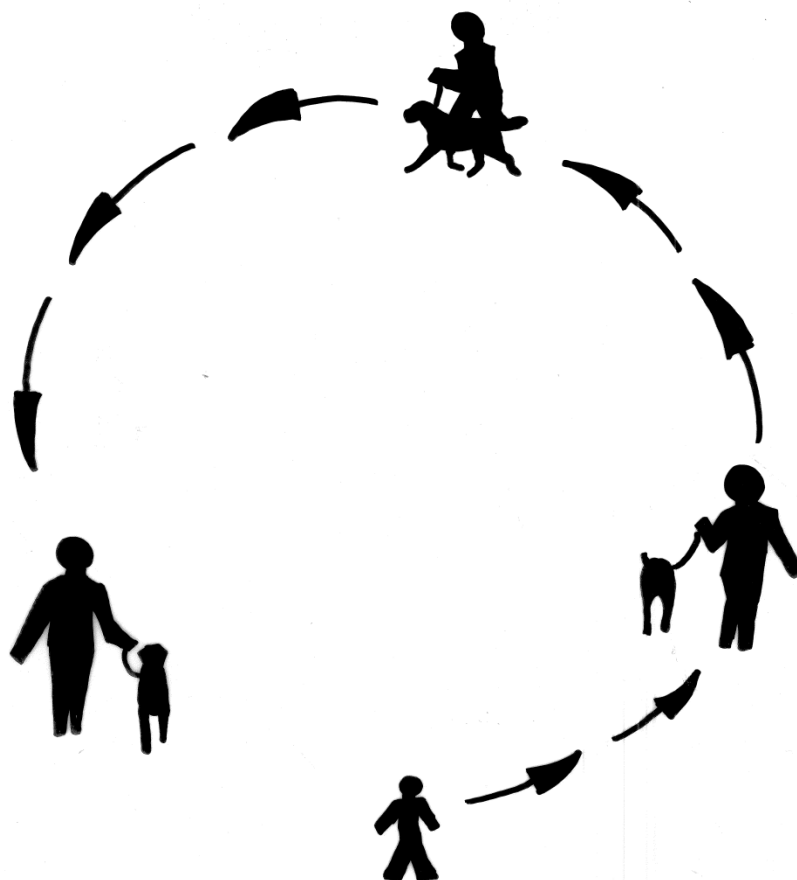
## The Circle

The Circle figure will aid the judge in observing the handlers individually or in a group.

The circle is one of the most common tasks asked by a judge in the breed ring. It is used so that the judge can observe the dog handled on the move from the side view.

The dogs move around the ring in an anti-clockwise direction, thus allowing for the dog to be on the judge side of the handler.

Handlers need to make a choice as to the size of the circle that they guide the dog to depending on dog's size and gait, and also depending on the ring size.



## Around The Ring in Group

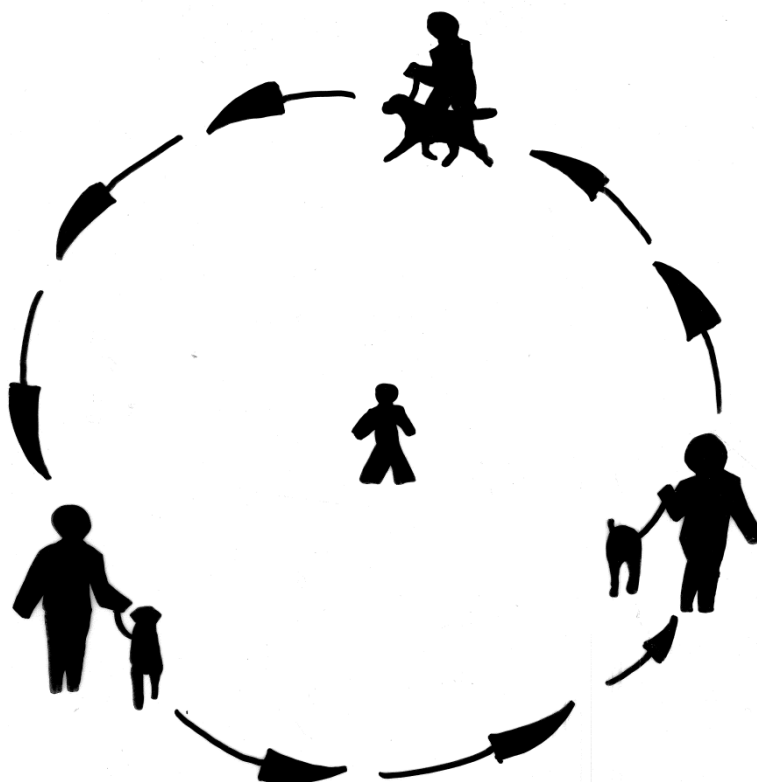
### More Than One Handler

This figure is to watch the handler's control of the dog and the ring craft of all handlers. Handlers should use the whole ring unless instructed by the Judge.

Always keep the dog moving at a correct pace according to the size and breed of the dog. Never try to speed up just to reach the dog in front. Always move according the dog's pace.

A handler should be aware of both the other dogs in the ring and the Judge's location.

Handlers should be considerate of each other and never overtake or pass the participants in front of them.



## Out and Back Together

The purpose of this task is so that the judge can compare the front and rear movement of two dogs, and to see the coordination of both handlers as they show their similar breeds.

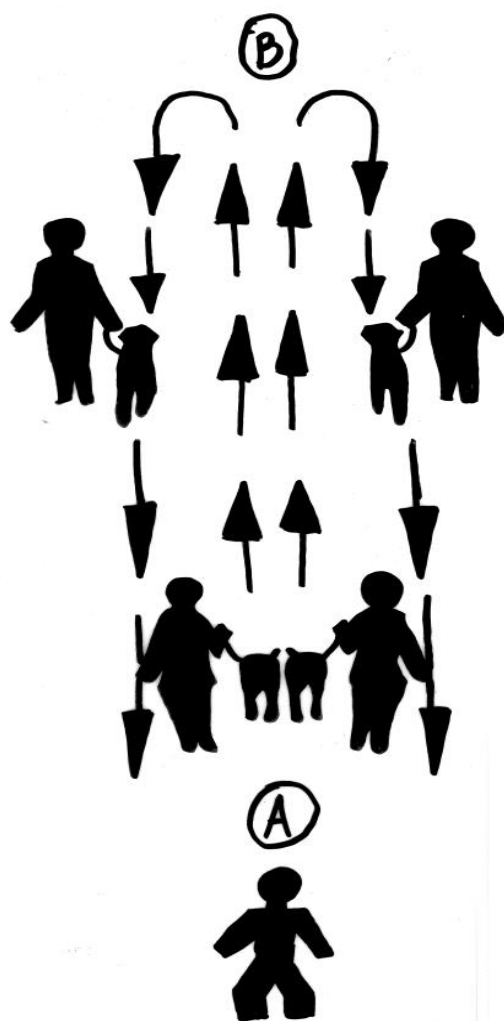
Handlers should move their dogs at the same pace

The slower of the two dogs will need to set the pace.

Handlers must maintain full control of their dogs and keep both dogs during this exercise in the middle.

The handler on the left (view from the judge) should start this exercise with the dog on the right hand side.

Upon returning to the judge, the handler on the right should have their dog on their right. This is to allow the dogs to move together and not be placed between the two dogs.



## DISTANCES IN RING

*Another aspect to take into account is one's own distance from the dog we are showing:*

It is advisable to be careful **not to overshadow** the dog's presence or even cover it unintentionally. Remember that the handler should **blend** into the background and should show the dog to its best, not the handler's best. A handler should **combine with the dog** to make a sound **duo/pair**.

It is common to see participants stacking their dogs **very close to each other** while waiting for their turn in ring. If the ring is large enough to do so, it is important to **keep a distance** of about **one meter** or a bit more from the other participants next to you.

If handlers are too close to each other, the **judge** will have more **difficulty** in **recognising individual** participants. Space will help handlers in keeping a **safe distance** from other dogs while moving and standing together.



We should also take into account the **distance** at which we **place ourselves from the Judge**. It is suggested that you place the dog about **two meters** from where the **Judge is standing**, presenting the possibility for the judge to **observe the dog from a distance**, as that will benefit **your presentation**.

## HANDLERS CONDUCT

*Any form of exaggeration in handling should be avoided because it will affect the whole balance and harmony of the pair and could also become a distracting factor for the other participants and dogs.*

When we place our dog, we should **not lean over our dog** in a way that will disturb the harmony of the two, and interfere with the **Judges assessment**. E.g.: To set the dog's legs, we should do it gently and subtly, from the inside and not over the dog, **avoiding any exaggerated leaning over** your dog's body.

It is also not advisable to spend most of your time trying to fix your dogs hair, or to take dog-treats to another level, otherwise the dog will end up becoming stuffed!

It is **absolutely not encouraged** to give orders to our dog or pulling hard on the lead, we should **not scold**; act agitated or impatient in any way. The most important attitude to adapt when a dog may misbehave is to be **gentle and firm**, but with no exaggeration of movements. Just **be natural**.

**Act calm** and if the dog becomes aggressive **ask the ring steward to help you**.

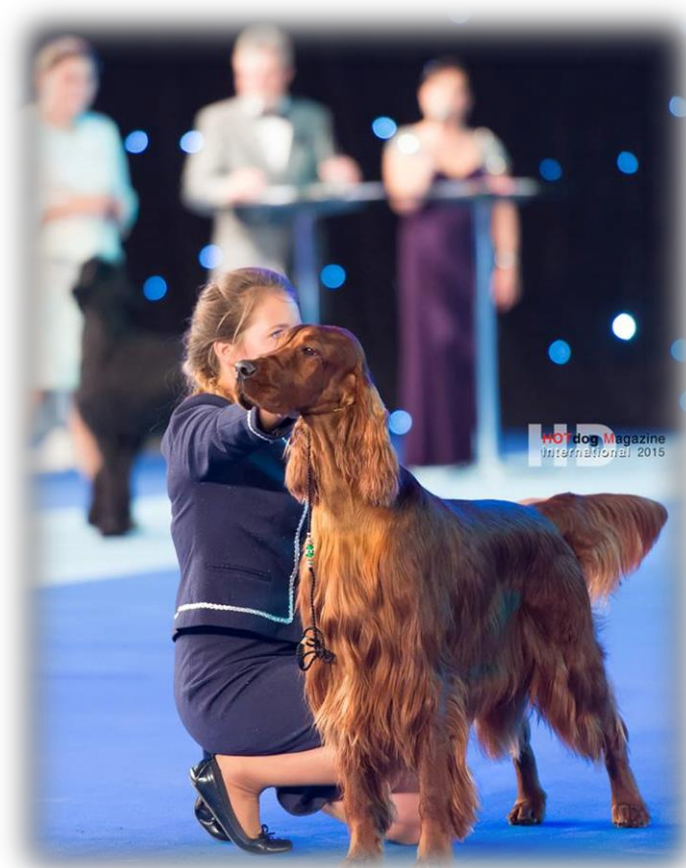
Use your **common sense** and try to always remember the importance of being **considerate** and **respectful** towards **others**.



## PERSONAL PRESENTATION

**Clothing colours** should **not be too flashy or overshadow the dog that you will be handling.** If you are handling a dark-coloured dog, it is recommended that you wear a light coloured suit, in order to highlight the contrast between the handler and the colour of the dog, **bringing the dog into first view.** Generally it is recommended the use of **neutral, one-coloured outfits.** Garments that will blend in well with the ground colour can also work but are not always easy to anticipate.

The handler is recommended to use **appropriate and functional** clothing and **accessories**, such as **shoes and clothes that are well adapted to the soil conditions and to the size of the dog.**



*The handler's purpose is to bring the judge's attention more to the dog than to the handler.*

*The judge will evaluate the harmony of the pair; how they interact and work together.*

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- *Junior Handlers should not take bitches in season into any Junior Handling Competition.*
- *Junior Handlers should not take aggressive dogs into any junior handling competition.*
- *Always keep the dog moving at a correct pace according it's size and breed.*



- *The exhibitor number should be on your left arm or on the left side of your blazer, where it can be clearly seen.*



## **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

- ***Remember to learn about the breed and get to know the dog that you are showing.***
- ***Know the breed's name, the age of the dog and the name you are handling.***
- ***Listen to the Judge's instructions carefully. If unsure of the instruction, politely ask the Judge to repeat it.***
- ***Learn how to show a dog's bite, both front and side views of the mouth.***
- ***When returning to the Judge, set up or free stand your dog as requested.***
- ***When returning to your line-up position, do not obstruct the view of other handlers from the judge. If necessary, walk behind the other handlers and take care not to upset other dogs.***
- ***Avoid throwing food that will distract other dogs or even your own dog when moving. If food or any other object is thrown or dropped, handlers should be penalised for not picking up their bait.***
- ***Always pick up any food or objects that you may drop.***

## COMMON JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS

*During a Junior Handling competition, the following points are likely to be judged/evaluated:*

### **1. Harmony and cooperation between the handler and the dog**

The main focus of the evaluation process should be based on co-operation and good sportsmanship among the participant and the dog. The pair is sought to embrace an overall corresponding appearance, demonstrating a sense of teamwork and true-going presence.

### **2. The specific handling of the dog within its own breed**

In motion (triangle, straight action and with turn)

Standing (as it is usual for the breed, with presentation on a table if required)

### **3. Knowledge and ability to show the breed**

Overall knowledge of the dog handled, such as the breed's name and the dog's age.

### **4. Showing the dog's bite**

Knowledge of handler to control the dog while showing the bite and/or teeth to the judge.

### **5. Presentation of the handler and dog together in a group**

The object of judging is to observe the presentation of the handler's dog when being gaited in a circle together with other handler's dogs in the same manner. The handler should not stand out from the group and is expected to move in harmony with the dog's gait, and with regard the rest of the

participants. Evidence of sportsmanship should be perpetual among all Junior Handling participants.

## **6. Changing dogs**

The judge could ask handlers to switch dogs if he/she decides to do so, with basis on the purpose that all dogs are safely handled and show no signs of aggression or obvious reluctance.

In case the judge considers necessary to change dogs between handlers to make a final decision, the Judge should verify that all dogs are safely handled and show no signs of aggression or reluctance, making sure that the most important thing is to maintain safety between the dogs, handlers, judge and any other person inside, or near the ring.

## **7. Appropriate clothing and presentation of the junior handler**

The Junior Handler and the dog should present a harmonious appearance as regards to clothing. The handler is recommended to use appropriate and functional clothing and accessories, such as shoes that are well adapted to the soil conditions and to the size of the dog. The colours of the handler's clothes should allow viewers to distinguish the dog's silhouette even from a distance, and any striking or inappropriate clothing is completely discouraged. Clothes that may interfere with the movement of the dog, or that could be distracting should be avoided.

## **8. Overall appearance of handler and dog**

Because the overall focus of attention in dog-handling should be kept on the dog, it is recommended that handlers avoid standing between the judge and the dog, without the practice of any exaggeration, but rather relating to this method as part of the handlers main purpose, in being present yet discreet.



## TERMINOLOGY

- **ANTICLOCKWISE** the opposite direction to which the hands on a clock go around.
- **CLOCKWISE** the way in which the hands on a clock go around.
- **COILED, COILING** collecting the leash in your hand.
- **CROWDING** getting too close to other dogs and handlers.
- **DOG EYE CONTACT** allowing the dogs to look at each other.
- **DOG'S BITE** showing the dog's bite, both side views and front.
- **FREE STAND** allowing the dog to stand naturally, without touching the dog.
- **FRONT MOVEMENT** seeing the front views of the dog coming back to the Judge.
- **LEASH DANGLING** the end of the leash hanging loosely from the hand.
- **LEFT ABOUT TURN** the dog and handler turn anticlockwise and return on the same line.

## TERMINOLOGY

- **LINE-UP** a line-up of dogs and handlers head to tail.
- **LOOSE LEASH** a leash which whilst not tight, still allows control of the dog.
- **REAR MOVEMENT** seeing the rear view of the dog going away from the Judge.
- **RELAX YOUR DOG** allowing the dog to take it easy and not to be in a stacked position.
- **RING CRAFT** the ability to show and handle a dog to its best advantage
- **SET UP / STACK** placing the dog in the required body position for that breed.
- **STANCE** the overall look of the dog when it is standing still.
- **TEAM WORK** talking to the dog and working together as a team.
- **TENSION ON LEASH** pulling or dragging or a tight leash.
- **BAIT** rewarding the dog with food or treats whilst in the ring.



# FCI YOUTH JUNIOR HANDLING STUDY MANUAL

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# FOR YOUNG DOG WORLDWIDE LOVERS

**CREATING THE WORLD'S LARGEST COMMUNITY OF YOUNG DOG LOVERS!**

BE PART OF THE FUTURE OF THE CANINE SPORTS!

**Q: HOW CAN I BE PART OF THE FCI YOUTH?**

**A:** THE FCI YOUTH DOES NOT HAVE MEMBERS, BUT YOU CAN BE PART OF THE FCI YOUTH MOVEMENT THROUGH YOUR NATIONAL CYNOLOGICAL ORGANIZATION. IF YOU WISH TO CONTACT US DIRECTLY, PLEASE SEND US A MESSAGE AND WE WILL GET BACK TO YOU.

**Q HOW CAN I KNOW IF THERE IS A NATIONAL YOUTH ORGANIATION IN MY COUNTRY?**

**A:** CONTACT YOUR NATIONAL CYNOLOGICAL ORGANIZATION AND ASK FOR THEIR YOUTH INITIATIVES. IF YOUR NCO DOES NOT HAVE A YOUTH PROGRAM, LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING TO TAKE PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH AND DOG AIMED ACTIVITIES.

**Q: MY COUNTRY HAS AN ESTABLISHED YOUTH ORGANISATION. HOW WILL IT BENEFIT FROM THE FCI YOUTH?**

**A:** THERE ARE MULTIPLE AND WELL ESTABLISHED NATIONAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS IN DIFFERENT FCI MEMBER COUNTRIES. THESE ORGANIZATIONS WILL BE HELPFUL EXAMPLES TO COUNTRIES DEVELOPING YOUTH PROGRAMS. ONE OF THE MAIN PURPOSES OF THE FCI YOUTH IS TO CREATE A WORLDWIDE NETWORK OF YOUNG DOG LOVERS, SO THAT ALL PARTS ARE CONNECTED AND BENEFIT FROM EACHOTHER.

**Q: HOW CAN THE FCI HELP NATIONAL CYNOLOGICAL ORGANIZATIONS?**

**A:** THE FCI YOUTH IS CREATING A NETWORK OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH NATIONAL CYNOLOGICAL ORGANIZATION AROUND THE WORLD. WE WILL OFFER SUPPORT, RECOMMENDATIONS AND REFERENCE MATERIALS SUCH AS STUDY MANUALS ON DIFFERENT CYNOLOGICAL MODALITITES PRACTICED BY YOUTH AND DOGS WORLDWIDE, WHICH WILL HELP NCO'S TO ESTABLISH EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND CYNOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG LOG LOVERS.

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