

Club Survey results

Each club affiliated and non affiliated was sent a copy of the questionnaire. The return was 37%. Of those 10% were Persian Clubs, 12% Semi Longhair Clubs, 7% British Clubs, 26% Foreign Clubs, 0% Burmese Clubs, 15% Oriental Clubs, 17% Siamese Clubs, 13% All Breed Clubs

Under each question are the responses. Additional comments are overleaf. Unmarked means there was no response to the options given for that particular question.

- Q2 Is your expectation for a Full Judge to write up on all cats placed in Open, Breeders and Miscellaneous classes?**
YES = 48% NO = 52%
- Q3 How would you limit the number? By cats placed in the Open classes only (including Best of Breed)?**
YES = 58% NO = 42%
- Q4 Do you consider the Open class includes Olympian, Imperial and Grand classes?**
YES = 63% NO = 7% Unmarked = 30%
- Q5 How many cats do you feel is a reasonable number for Judges to write critiques on?**
10-20 = 15% 20-30 = 51% 30-40 = 28% 50+ = 6%
- Q6 Over the last ten years do you think the number of breeds being recognised has kept pace with the number of new Judges being appointed?**
YES = 14% NO = 79% Unmarked = 7%
- Q7 Do you feel the number of written critiques per Judges should be more balanced? i.e. A Judge who is on 10 lists will naturally have more exhibits than a Judge on 5 lists)**
YES = 51% NO = 35% Unmarked = 14%
- Q8 Do you feel the Judges who have a smaller number of Open classes should undertake writing Miscellaneous critiques if they are not already doing so?**
YES = 69% NO = 20% Unmarked = 11%
- Q9 If it were decided that critiques need only be written for exhibits placed in Open classes (including Best of Breed) would you still like a Judge to be able to give you comments on your exhibits if unplaced? (This would not necessarily be in a write up; it could be given verbally based on notes made on the day)**
YES = 89% NO = 8% Unmarked = 3%
- Q10 Regardless of your entry fee having to cover show costs e.g. License fee, hall and penning hire, veterinary and Judge expenses, rosettes and other awards. Do you still feel your fee also entitles you to request critiques on all cats Judged?**
YES = 48% NO = 43% Unmarked = 8%
- Q11 Would you be prepared to pay an increase on your show entry fee to pay for additional Judges brought in to help distribute the loading on critiques?**
YES = 7% NO = 77% Unmarked = 16%

Additional Comments:

(Where comments have been made each bullet point gives an answer and follow on comment from club)

Q2 Is your expectation for a Full Judge to write up on all cats placed in Open, Breeders and Miscellaneous classes?

- No: If it means for write ups critiques for publication
- No: Just Open and Breeders classes.
- No: Miscellaneous classes would be far to much to expect a Judge to do. It would be nice if they could but we wouldn't want to overload them
- Yes: For places 1-3
- Yes: The Committee would like to see reports on all entries whether placed or not in the Open, with 1st-3rd placings in Miscellaneous classes. Some years ago this was the norm but there was comment that roughly since the disappearance of Our Cats, there seemed to be fewer and fewer reports on individual cats.

Q3 How would you limit the number? By cats placed in the Open classes only (including Best of Breed)?

- No: An alternative is that Judges should write up on all Open classes but not fewer than about 25 cats. So Miscellaneous classes up to this number if he/she has few Opens.
- No: Open classes, plus 1st and 2nd in Miscellaneous classes.
- Yes: By Open classes plus placings of other cats.
- No: Depending on he results of Q5 the quota should be used as 1 Open, 2 Breeders, 3 Non Breeders, 4 Others.
- No: An alternative is Open, Breeders, Non Breeders classes and possible one other depending on the total numbers being judged.
- No: An alternative is cats placed in Breed classes, all those assessed for BoB, and if numbers permit cats placed in Breeders classes.
- No: An alternative is to write up BoB, 1st, 2nd for Olympian, Imperial and Grand. 1st, 2nd, 3rd for Breeder and all Miscellaneous classes.
- Yes: When a Judge withholds on a cat he/she should always at least give the exhibitor their reason(s) for withholding, whether verbally or in a written critique (not necessarily for publication).
- Unmarked: If a PJ reports on a cat/kitten it is important that if a Full Judge has that cat/kitten the critiques should be available to compare.
- No: Just Open and Breeder classes.
- Yes: But critiques on the AV Miscellaneous classes are useful to exhibitors
- Unmarked: The main objection if only Open classes are to be written up, what is the point of exhibitors entering a minimum of 4 classes when they will never see in writing the opinion of the other 3 Judges? It may sound good to approach the Judges re Club & Miscellaneous classes but unfortunately it is not the same as seeing it in print.
- Yes: Maybe Breed classes and Breeders classes.
- No: An alternative would be Open and Breeders classes.
- No: We believe classes are much smaller at the present time, therefore no limits are needed. We believe for pre Premier classes all cats should have a critique. The exhibitors needs to know the merit of their cat and if the cat is of sufficient standard to compete at this level.
- Yes: Open plus Miscellaneous and Breeders classes.
- Yes: Brief notes on 1st and 2nd with name of 3rd.
- No: All Opens with full critiques on placings 1-3. For Breeders and Miscellaneous classes placings 1-2 with just name of the cat for 3rd place.
- No: Why consider limiting the number when show entries have continually shown a reduction of numbers.
- Unmarked: we understand that some Judges are overloaded and thus unfairly have more reports to write and we would recommend that Council sets a fixed limit of the number of cats in a judge's book which may not be exceeded, particularly not to save money for the show.

Q4 Do you consider the Open class includes Olympian, Imperial and Grand classes?

- Yes: And must be written up

Q5 How many cats do you feel is a reasonable number for Judges to write critiques on?

- Should comment on up to 4 cats per class

- 30/40: As many as they undertake to judge. A Judge at a 2011 show only had 2 in the Breed classes and didn't report on any in the side classes. In 2010 one male Judge who is an example to all reported on 90+ cats - at length.
- All the Open classes, Grand, Imperial and Olympian classes.

Q6 Over the last ten years do you think the number of breeds being recognised has kept pace with the number of new Judges being appointed?

- Yes: Yes probably for Siamese.
- Unmarked: Not enough new Judges are being appointed as most of the Judges appointed to new lists are existing Judges being 'recycled'.
- No: Just a large collection of recycled Judges.
- Unmarked: Not enough new Judges are being appointed as most of the Judges appointed to new lists are existing Judges being recycled!

Q7 Do you feel the number of written critiques per Judges should be more balanced? i.e. A Judge who is on 10 lists will naturally have more exhibits than a Judge on 5 lists)

- Yes: Achieving this balance is down to the show manager "managing" the individual Judges loading.
- No: A Judge with fewer Opens should write up on more Miscellaneous entries.
- No: Exhibitors are entitled to see critiques' on their cats - it is up to the SM to balance out the classes between Judges so this can be possible!
- Yes: Why not put written critiques on the cat's pen as it is judged?
- No: It was felt this would place too much organisation on Show Managers and would in any case depend on the number entered on the day.
- Yes: Most are very conscientious but as in all walks of life there are a few who 'let the side down'. We wouldn't like to see the dedicated ones having to cope with more than is humanly possible.
- No: No Judge should be on more than 4 lists.
- No: All Judges should publish their reports within 4 weeks and all Judges not doing this should be severely reprimanded.
- Yes: A limit on the number of cats/classes a Judge should be expected to judge and write up on.
- Yes: Some clubs "never" invite probationer Judges – this needs reviewing.
- I disagree that a Judge on ten lists has more cats to write up; the show manager should balance the number of cats per Judge and so all Judges (with the exception of single breed Probationers perhaps) should have a similar number of cats per show.
- Unmarked: We totally disagree with Judges on all lists having to write up Miscellaneous classes.
- Yes: The more senior Judges are more experienced in the area therefore the Judges with 5 on their list need more experience and this takes time to get it right.
- Unmarked: Judges on 10 lists should not be used as 'cheap' options and be overloaded.
- Yes: Some Judges are more popular than others too, often because they do give what the exhibitor wants - which is a fair and balanced critique.
- Unmarked: Difficult question to answer as although some Judges are on more lists they should not necessarily be expected to Judge more cats and write critiques.
- Yes: Some shows you get more, others less. Large number – do brief reports, just most important points of the cat.
- No: If a Judge has chosen to go on more lists it is their responsibility to be capable of handling the critiques pro rata.

Q8 Do you feel the Judges who have a smaller number of Open classes should undertake writing Miscellaneous critiques if they are not already doing so?

- Yes: Just brief ones but most already do this don't they?
- No: We assume Miscellaneous classes are already being written up?
- No: Only PJs should write up side classes where appropriate.
- Yes: A critique is important to the exhibitor to get overall balance from critiques. Why not place critiques on the pens as the Supreme do?
- No: The committee felt that Judges should be consistent in the writing of critiques regardless of their class size.
- Yes: Exhibitors pay the same amount per class for the Open as they do for Miscellaneous classes and it is their one opportunity to distinguish between those Judges who do or do not like their cat.
- No: Any special remarks could be made directly to the exhibitor.

- Yes: Most definitely. Otherwise we get the impression that they are not interested in what they are doing.
- No: It should be the same rules for all – save confusion.
- Yes: We haven't seen a critique on our cats since the Our Cats paper ceases as we do not have a computer.
- Yes: This way the Judges with smaller numbers of Open classes will gain more experience as to what is expected to the BAC standards.
- Yes: Some with only 6 cats in Open are not writing Miscellaneous and we feel this is not acceptable.
- Yes: The critique for Miscellaneous does not have to be as lengthy as the Open and title classes but would be useful to know why the cats were placed 1-3 in comparison to each other.
- Unmarked: Possibly. Our members are divided on this question. It needs a clear rule otherwise it will be difficult to monitor.
- Yes: It would be useful for BACs to be able to assess Judges for potential for judging more breeds before a Judge applies to judge additional lists.
- Yes: Breeders and Non Breeders classes.
- Yes: Yes! As stated previously all class entries (placed) should require a critique otherwise why are exhibitors required to enter Miscellaneous classes?

Q9 If it were decided that critiques need only be written for exhibits placed in Open classes (including Best of Breed) would you still like a Judge to be able to give you comments on your exhibits if unplaced? (This would not necessarily be in a write up; it could be given verbally based on notes made on the day)

- Yes: Would always prefer written critiques.
- Yes: Why a cat is unplaced is very important. We need these critiques in FULL not just notes.
- Yes: We would expect a written critique for the Breeders class as well as the Open. We would not be interested in showing where only Open classes were reported on.
- Yes: All Judges should make themselves available to exhibitors where possible and within reason. Often they have to rush to travel home but if a Judge cannot stay on perhaps they could be otherwise available?
- Yes: Recent experience is that Judges often rush away when they have finished judging – leaving the exhibitor with no idea of the Judges reasoning.
- Yes: Again this would especially apply if the Judge has withheld on the cat.
- Yes: We hope that decision will never be made as it would demean all the efforts made by all the dedicated Judges over the years. We would appreciate a verbal reply but it would be extremely tiring for Judges, possibly at the end of a long day when they perhaps had to leave before the end of the show if they were using public transport or even to travel home if they lived at a distance. We would go for a written report which they could do at their leisure.
- Yes: Judges should be available and approachable before the closure of the show because at the moment they are not.
- Yes: It is important to know why your cat was not placed and what you could do to improve.
- Yes: To save time why not Judge as we do at the Supreme and have write ups for main classes and verbal comments for side classes.
- Yes: Verbally on the day is difficult for more than the occasional cat; we think we would need a clearer process where entrants could request the Judge to email them with comments – obviously a problem for those not on email but that should be a minority by now.
- Yes: Providing the Judge is willing to stay and be approached by the exhibitor we don't see why not as this is what the exhibitor pays for.
- Yes: Preferably by email. Many Judges are either too busy on the day or have to leave early to travel home.
- Unmarked: They should have time to write up on every entry in the Open, not verbally!!
- Yes: This is how it is now.
- Yes: Especially for Open title classes. Judges should make themselves available after judging on the day for a verbal report. Perhaps they could walk around the sections they have Judged for people to approach them.
- Yes: Write up is preferred and for each cat – a verbal communication is rarely possible as Judges don't always have much time after judging and certainly not the time to hunt down exhibitors.
- Yes: Verbally based on notes made on the day.
- Yes: Especially for exhibitors placed 1-3
- Yes: Especially in the case of kittens

Q10 Regardless of your entry fee having to cover show costs e.g. License fee, hall and penning hire, veterinary and Judge expenses, rosettes and other awards.

Do you still feel your fee also entitles you to request critiques on all cats Judged?

- No: Not entitled but we would prefer that we did receive at least one critique for every cat.
- Yes: There is no point in showing if you do not get a Judges critique.
- No: Title classes, Open classes 1st-3rd, Miscellaneous classes 1st -2nd, but not Charity, Club or Club Special classes.
- Yes: That is why we pay to enter, i.e. to learn the Judges opinions of our cats
- No: Be reasonable, Judges – despite opinions to the contrary – are only human.
- Yes: An important reason for showing is to obtain the Judges opinion so we would expect to receive at least one critique on our cats.
- Yes: Providing this only applies to cats owned by the person requesting the comments and not that of a cat owned by another exhibitor.
- Yes: If you don't receive a critique why bring your cat? There would be a feeling of no feedback at all. In other words a fruitless day. Not all cats can achieve Imperial status but there are some very good 'also rans' who surely deserve comment.
- Yes: Because there is only one certificate available we feel we should get more for our money.
- At the BAC we promote Judges because of their knowledge and experience. We always want to gain the benefit of that experience and learn from it.
- No: Only Open, Grand, Imperial Olympian classes and BoB
- Unmarked: We do not think this has anything to do with the fee; this is about policy – what is the job of a Judge? We also believe it is practical to write up 'all cats judged' all cats placed is at least a good compromise.
- Yes: What is the point in showing you do not know what the Judges thinking is?
- Yes: Detailed for Open classes. Brief for side classes.
- Yes: Provided it is not excessive for individual Judges as some have more classes than others. We have heard comments such as "I will not put my cat under that Judge because he/she never does a report on Miscellaneous, I would rather put them in fewer side classes, to lessen the handling if I am not to have a report.
- No: Although some exhibitors do like to reads the critiques.
- Unmarked: Again difficult. If a cat is not placed in its Open (Grand/Imperial/Olympian) it would be nice to know why, and it could be that Judges would be prepared to give a brief written/verbal report on request (with placings) in the relevant class.
- No: But definitely the first 4 places in an Open plus BoB – most exhibitors make careful choices about the Judges under who they place their cats for this very reason.

Q11 Would you be prepared to pay an increase on your show entry fee to pay for additional Judges brought in to help distribute the loading on critiques?

- Unmarked: We don't feel that would be necessary as the show number of exhibits has gone down over the last few years.
- No: Most clubs are struggling with costs. Most exhibitors also. Many, many shows and show managers struggle to get sufficient Judges already. There are not enough Judges.
- No: Not in the present economic climate. Shows are losing too many entries as it is.
- No: Not really but it would depend on the increase. For 2 cats at some shows it costs toward £90 with fees; double pen if your cat is large, catalogue and donation to the club.
- No: You sometimes enter shows to get a critique from a particular Judge.
- No: Verbal critiques on the day.
- Unmarked: A 5% increase then Yes. A 20% increase then No. The other issue is that given the number of shows and Judges I am not convinced this is even possible without relaxing the 3 month rule.
- No: This is outrageous!
- No: Too much money is wasted on rosettes and fancy lunches.
- No: Write ups were always prepared on Opens and Miscellaneous classes for Cats/Our Cats magazines – why has this now changed?
- No: The published entry fee should be assessed to cover all expenses and that includes Judges.
- No: At a time when numbers at shows are falling we cannot put up entry fees.