

Review of Judge & Steward Training and Breed Groupings

undertaken by

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The existing system is very slow in producing qualified Full Judges. It is bureaucratic, with the emphasis on paperwork and writing, rather than on tuition in judging and placing as confirmed by the surveys received. The purpose of this review is to improve by streamlining the current method of judge and steward training. A radical across the board approach has been necessary to make the degree of change required.

Recommended changes:

Stewards

- Reduce the number of certificates required for stewards to 2 table work and 10 stewarding certificates
- The Guild of GCCF Judges and Stewards to take over the progression of stewards until such time he/she applies to their nominated BAC. The Guild will provide information packs and training in the form of seminars to cover handling over sections and similar. These seminars to be compulsory for stewards. The Guild to have the option of making use of rooms/hall space at shows (where practical) for training purposes.
- Completed certificates will be reviewed by the Guild and when a candidate is ready to progress the certificates will be forwarded to each BAC within a nominated group for its information and also the GCCF office. If a candidate wishes to become a GCCF Steward and go no further the name will be forwarded to the GCCF with that information.
- If it was felt a Steward needed more experience in handling, the Guild can request they complete a further two certificates
- Pupil Judge Stage 1: When the steward progresses to a nominated BAC he/she will work with designated judges (shadow judging) in order to complete three final stewarding certificates. This level should be used to teach the steward how to assess and place exhibits and write critiques.

Probationer Judges Pupil Judge Stage 2

- The three month “geographical” guidelines should not apply to candidates – provided this is not abused.
- A candidate should not be required to be a breeder in order to be able to Judge.
- All candidates can apply for multi lists and would be encouraged to do so within a section sub-grouping. In the case of first time judges, candidates will no longer have to wait until the completion of a two year period.
- With the opportunity to cover a sub-group of breeds (as above). With the exception of Kitten Open classes, a candidate should not be expected to write on all cats judged within each list and a limit of up to six per breed (per show) should be in place.
- Tutorials to continue. Full Judges to understand this is necessary learning for a candidate and is in place for the preparation and development of future judges. A BAC can choose to give its candidates a selection of “Tutor Judges” who are prepared to give those on the scheme the benefit of their experience.
- Removal of assessments and in its place “parallel judging”. A full judge to give the probationer one of his/her Adult or Neuter Open classes to judge. There would be no pre or post discussion; instead the full judge would send his/her critiques to the relevant BAC as would the candidate before either appeared on the GCCF web site.

Where candidates have applied for a “group” of breeds the BAC’s involved may wish to meet to discuss the candidates abilities (in these circumstances no one representative can represent more than one breed).

These discussions made at group level are to be fed back to each BAC. As for a single BAC, these meetings should be chaired by an “independent” but in this case not anybody directly involved with a participating BAC within that group.

Although a BAC may wish to run single breed seminars they should also combine to run joint seminars for training. The latter will count towards candidate’s requirements.

Training should also be available for officers and representatives who wish to participate on a BAC

Arbitration

- In the event of a dispute, either within the BAC or between the BAC and a candidate the matter will go to a scrutiny/arbitration panel. Any evidence, (letters, minutes, reports), will be looked at by the panel and if it is felt any decision did not have sound reasons behind it the panel will refer the matter back to the BAC and request they review the matter/application again. If the BAC refuses to do this then the panel will forward all the documentation, together with its findings, to the Disciplinary Committee

Although a candidate who wishes to apply only to one breed list must not be disadvantaged it was hoped that candidates would apply to cover a group of breeds (based around a Grand) in the multi-breed sections in much the same way as all British are studied simultaneously. Once qualified, any candidate who can do all or a substantial part of a section is far more employable.

Recommended breed grouping:

Reduce the sections to 6 with 1 Imperial per section (this will still obviously include Male & Female in both Entire & Neuter classes). This will also ensure there are a minimum of 2 breeds per section. In some sections more Grand Classes have been created so that each sub-group has its own Grand as detailed below:

Persian Section

- 1 Persian (all together in one BAC) – Imperial x1 (groups 1/2). Grand x2 (Self and Non Self)
- 2 Exotic – Imperial as above. Grand x1

Semi Longhair Section

- 3 Birman – Imperial x1 (groups 3/4/5). Grand x1
- 4 Maine Coon, Norwegian Forest, Somali – Imperial as above. Grand x1
- 5 Ragdoll, *Ragamuffin*, Turkish Van, Turkish Vankedisi, Siberian – Imperial as above. Grand x1

British Section

- 6 British, Selkirk - Imperial and Grand classes to remain as current.

Burmese/Asian Section

- 7 Burmese, Asian – Imperial x1. Grand x2 (Burmese and Asian)

Foreign Section

- 8 Bengal – Imperial (groups 8/9/10/11). Grand x1
- 9 Cornish, Rex Devon Rex, LaPerm, Sphynx –Imperial as above. Grand x1
- 10 Abyssinian, *Khao-Manee*, Korat, Russian, Singapura, Thai. Imperial as above Grand x1
- 11 *Australian Mist*, Egyptian Mau, Ocicat, Ocicat Classic, *Snowshoe*, Tonkinese. Imperial as above. Grand x1

(The above groupings will allow potential for new breeds to be allocated to the nearest specific group and any that require adjustment.)

Siamese/Oriental Section

- 12 Balinese, Oriental, Siamese – Imperial x1. Grand x2 (Siamese and Oriental)
(If there was justification: possible Longhair Grand consisting of longhair Oriental & Balinese)

Review meeting to discuss funding/finance to follow.