

SHOW REVIEW GROUP COUNCIL UPDATE JULY 2022

Judges

The SRG has received well over 40 communications regarding the issue of the lack of Judges actively still judging. This had been identified as a potentially serious issue prior to the pandemic but is now fast becoming critical.

The SRG in conjunction with the JASRG have identified a number of factors central to this decrease – most were evident prior to the pandemic and are still very relevant but a number are as a direct result of it.

- Ageing population
- Loss of judges due to retirement etc.
- Lack of attracting the younger generation to undertake training
- Onerous training programme
- The current BAC “system” wherein cohesive administration essential to a candidate’s success is not guaranteed across the breeds
- Report writing post show (GCCF is the only registering body that expects this)
- Personal costs (lack of “family time”/fees/travelling)
- Section judges listing are misleading – a judge listed in many sections is only one person not many!

Post pandemic:

- No longer wishing to devote their weekends to the Cat Fancy
- no longer willing to travel longer distances especially if reliant on public transport
- due to less judges being available – encountering heavier loadings especially with title classes/BOB
- heavier loadings resulting in a great number of written reports to generate post show
- cutting down on engagements accepted so as to do less “homework” post show due to accepting that report writing is a vital aspect of GCCF judge’s responsibilities.

Collectively these are having an extremely negative effect on shows and the remaining judges. All these issues are impacting on the available Judging pool by, decreasing the number of available judges even further while increasing the workload of those judges still active.

As more and more judges choose to do less shows the more likely it is that shows will be cancelled.

SRG is aware that the JASRG are very busy in developing a more accessible and less onerous training programme but we believe that one action that could be taken to alleviate, in the short term, the pressure on judges would be to consider ways in which to lessen the need and/or methods for report writing.

Show Managers Forum/FAQ

SRG have now received 32 requests for a Show Managers Forum to be available on the GCCF website. They feel that this would be a safe space for Show Managers to communicate freely and get answers to questions/advice.

SRG requested at the Board meeting on 13th May costings to implement this.

Judges Information

Request received asking for a ‘Meet the Judges’ area on the website. This could include a photograph and information on their experiences within the GCCF.

SRG agreed that this was a good idea and they should be available on the GCCF website. Board approved suggestion. SRG is now collecting information.

Best in Show Certificate

Multiple requests received asking to clarify when an extra certificate is given as incorrect information had started to be given at shows.

SRG to requested clarification from Board of when an extra certificate for BIS is given. Board confirmed that the extra BIS certificates will only be given to the Overall BIS Pedigree & the Overall BIS Household Pet at individual shows. SRG requested that clarification should be clearly stated in schedules and catalogues, this was agreed with the Board. SRG also requested that clarification of additional BIS Award criteria be sent to Show Managers.

Vaccination

Requests received regarding clarification of the Vaccination rules. Reasoning given was that different pages on the website gave differing information, statements had also been made that people believed was different to the rule.

SRG requested that the Board clarify the correct vaccination rule and send out to all, amend website so that information correct on all pages.

3 Shows in one Day

A few requests received asking the SRG to review allowing an exhibit to enter 3 shows on the same day.

The SRG were concerned cats could be over handled. Possibility of cats gaining titles even faster, which could reduce entries for future shows. Further discussion needed.

Catalogues

The Board confirmed to the SRG that it was acceptable for catalogues to be given to exhibitors (not judges or stewards) at vetting-in. This was trialled at a recent show and was a huge success. Exhibitors were very pleased to get catalogues early, this assisted in dealing any queries before judging started, no huge queues when exhibitors leave and judging starts.
