

Ingham County Fair Dog Show

General Rules and Guidelines

Any abuse of dogs on the grounds or in the ring will result in disqualification.

Female dogs in season must be reported to the Show Officials upon arrival to show grounds.

Good sportsmanship shall be observed at all times. The judge's decision is final. Poor sportsmanship may lead to loss of ribbon, class dismissal, or disqualification from the show as determined by judge and show committee. Any protest should be made in writing to the show committee. The judge may disqualify the dog. Any exhibitor or spectator may be excused from the show for unsportsmanship-like conduct.

Check in Time: 8:00am – 8:45am
Judging to begin promptly at 9:00am

Section 1: Decisions

The judge's decisions will be final in all matters affecting the scoring and judging of each class. The show committee shall decide all other matters arising at the show.

Section 2: Scoring

A
200- 180

B
179.5- 160

C
159.5- below

Section 3: Stewards

The judge is in sole charge of the ring until the assignment is complete. Stewards are provided for assistance, but may only act on the judge's instructions. Stewards shall not give information or instructions to the owners except as specifically instructed by the judge, and then only by making it clear the instructions are those of the judge.

Section 4: Praise

Praise and petting shall be allowed between and after the exercises, but points may be deducted from the total score for a dog not under reasonable control while being praised. A handler shall not carry or offer food, toys, or training tools while in the obedience ring.

Section 5: Misbehavior

Any display of fear, nervousness or uncontrolled behavior by the dog such as snapping, barking or running away from the handler, whether it occurs during an exercise, between exercises, or before or after judging, may be penalized according to the seriousness of the misbehavior.

Section 6: Interference and Double Handling

A judge who is aware of any assistance, interference, or attempts to control a dog from the outside of the ring must act promptly to stop such double handling or interference and shall penalize the dog substantially. If, in the judge's opinion, the circumstance warrant, the dog will be given a score of zero for the exercise during which the aid was received or the dog shall be disqualified and no ribbon awarded.

Section 7: Training and Disciplining in the Ring

The judge shall not permit any handler to train their dog by excessive verbal commands or by moving toward the dog to correct it in any way, nor to practice any exercise in the ring either before or after he is judged. He shall excuse any dog whose handler does either from further competition in the class. A dog whose handler disciplines it in the ring may be excused from further competition in the class.

Section 8: Standard of Perfection

The judge must carry a mental picture of the theoretically perfect performance in each exercise and score each dog and handler against this visualized standard which shall combine the utmost in willingness, gentleness, enjoyment and precision on the part of the dog, and naturalness, gentleness, and smoothness on the part of the handler. Lack of willingness or enjoyment on the part of the dog must be penalized, as must lack of the precision in the dog's performance, roughness in handling, military precision or peremptory commands by the handler. No penalty shall be less than one-half point or multiple of one-half points.

Section 9: Explanations and Errors

The judge is not required to explain his scoring and need not enter into any discussion with any exhibitor who appears to be dissatisfied. Any interested person who thinks that there may have been an arithmetical error in identifying a dog may report the facts to one of the stewards or the show committee so it may be checked.

Section 10: Responsibility of Owner

The owner has sole responsibility for the dog and is liable if the dog damages anyone or anything.

Section 11: Compliance with Regulations

Each person entering a 4-H show shall be familiar with these regulations.